

Project Completion Report: Improved access to legal
assistance

*The demographic picture, the assessment of the legal status
and needs as well as examination the traumatic experiences of
refugees who are in transit through Serbia*

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1. Introduction

According to the UNHCR data, number of people that have been forced to flee their homes increased rapidly in the last few years. In 2013 the increase of number of displaced people is the highest annual increase ever. In 2014, 59.5 million people were forcibly displaced. UNHCR experts reported that the number of 60 million refugees will be highly exceeded in 2015. The main reason for this increase is the 2011 outbreak of war in Syria. The majority of refugees on the move that seek asylum in Western Europe are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. On their way, they usually pass through Turkey and Greece and come to the Western Balkans countries. The countries in this region, such as Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia, are facing, for months now, dramatic influx of refugees.

It is unknown how many people have died in four-and-a-half years of multisided conflicts in Syria. UN said around 220.000 people had been killed. It all began with protests against President Bashar al-Assad in March 2011, followed by a full-fledged civil war and from June 2014 large part of Syria has been occupied. More than 11 million Syrians have left their homes since 2011, including the internally displaced people. Over 2 million people fled to Turkey, although the officials stated that the correct number is 2.5 million. In Lebanon, 4.5 millions estimated population, every fifth person is a Syrian refugee. They can also be found in Jordan.

Large number of refugees comes from Afghanistan. It is a country considered as the biggest "producer" of refugees for the last 32 years. While, in the past, majority of Afghan refugees fled to Iran and Pakistan, nowadays lots of them are trying to come to Europe. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, refugees were fleeing primarily to neighboring countries. After the Soviet Union's withdrawal, the Taliban movement emerged, followed by the US military intervention in 2001, which all led to constant instability in the country.

Iraq is among the countries that are terribly affected by the refugee crisis. Even though those are, above all, internally dislocated persons, latest data show that this is 3.2 million people in 3.000 locations. UNHCR expects that the number of Iraqis that flee abroad will grow. Besides the internally dislocated, there are a

couple of hundred thousand Syrian refugees, both in a very bad state. In the first four years of war following the US invasion and Saddam Hussein's deposition in 2003, estimated 150.000 to 600.000 people have been killed and 4 million left their country. After the withdrawal of the US military forces in 2011, this prolonged conflict goes on. It is the Northern Iraq offensive in June 2014 and the fall of Mosul that constituted the Islamic state as a territorial organization.

According to International Organization for Migration data, 246.336 refugees have entered Serbia between the beginning of this year and October 19th. In the period of September 29th till October 12th 2015, based on UNHCR data, 4.300 refugees per day were coming to Serbia from Macedonia, and 250 to 550 from Bulgaria. Highest influx of refugees happened on October 18th when 10.000 people were registered in the refugee camp in Preševo.

Majority of the refugees/migrants is just passing through the Balkan countries, Serbia included. They linger from a few hours to a few days and then continue their trip to Western Europe. Until September 15th the refugees have entered the European Union through Hungary. On that day, Hungary closes its border with Republic of Serbia to refugees/migrants and the refugee route was changed towards Croatia.

In the beginning, refugees/migrants crossed to Croatia through the unofficial Berkasovo – Babska border crossing. Close to the border, Refugee camp Principovac was opened. By the end of October, Berkasovo – Babska border crossing was no longer available for refugees/migrants, so they started passing into Croatia through the Tovarnik crossing, by busses from Šid.

On November 19th Serbia closes its borders for African and Asian refugees/migrants who are not welcome in Croatia and Slovenia because they are not refugees fleeing war.

Refugees/migrants coming from Macedonia stay in the refugee camp Preševo for a few hours, get registered and carry on to Šid usually by buses and then to Croatia by train.

For refugees arriving to Serbia through Bulgaria, there is a camp in Dimitrovgrad, mostly visited by Afghan refugees. Many of them travel to Belgrade by bus,

carry on to Šid and then Croatia. Some of them stay in the asylum seeker center in Krnjaca for a while.

For the purposes of this study, we have been interviewing refugees in informal gathering places in Belgrade, on the border crossings with Croatia and in the refugee camps in Presevo, Miratovac, Kanjiza and Principovac.

2. Legal Framework

In the area of migration and asylum there is a broad national and international legal framework. For the implementation of the project activities, legal acts that have been used are those that are the most relevant to questions of the status of refugees / migrants residing in informal gathering places on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The basic national legal framework includes the currently valid Law on Asylum¹, Law on Migration Management², The Law on Foreigners³, The decision on issuing confirmation of entry to the territory of the Republic of Serbia for migrants arriving from countries where their lives are in danger⁴, as well as relevant provisions and principles proclaimed by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia⁵.

From international multilateral and bilateral legal documents, it is necessary to mention the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)⁶, and its Protocol (1967)⁷, Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)⁸, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)⁹, as well as Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation (2007)¹⁰.

¹ Law on Asylum ("Official Gazette of Serbia", br. 109/2007)

² Law on Migration Management ("Official Gazette of Serbia", br. 107/2012)

³ The Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of Serbia", br. 97/2008)

⁴ The decision on issuing confirmation of entry to the territory of the Republic of Serbia for migrants arriving from countries where their lives are in danger ("Official Gazette of Serbia", br. 81/2015)

⁵ Constitution of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of Serbia", br. 98/2006)

⁶ United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951

⁷ Protocol to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967

⁸ Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

⁹ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966

¹⁰ Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation, 2007

Refugee, within the meaning of Law on Asylum, is a person who, for a justified reason fears of persecution for reasons of race, sex, language, religion, national origin or membership of a particular group or political opinion, is not in the country of origin and is unable to or due to this fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or person without nationality and being outside the country of his former permanent residence and who is unable or due to this fear is unwilling to return to that country.¹¹

A person who has been recognized as a refugee has the right to asylum in Serbia. Asylum is the right of residence and protection of the foreigner who has been granted refuge or subsidiary protection in Serbia¹².

During implementation of the project activities, information obtained on the ground that some refugees / migrants were fined, in the transit countries as well as in Serbia, due to their illegal stay or entry into the territory of that State, even though the Convention on the Status of Refugees stipulates that refugees who are illegally on the territory of a State shall not impose penalties for illegal entry or residence, if they report to the authorities without delay and show good reasons for their illegal entry¹³.

When reporting to the authorities in Serbia, they are being issued with a certificate of entry into the territory of the Republic of Serbia for foreign nationals who come from countries where their lives are in danger, which gives them the right to reside in the Republic of Serbia for a period of 72 hours of its issuance, the right to use banking services, the right to accommodation and the right to receive necessary medical assistance.¹⁴ What is necessary to emphasize is that the holders of these certificates do not acquire the status of asylum seekers in terms of regulations on asylum in the Republic of Serbia¹⁵, because on the field this question was often asked in fear that consequently refugees could be returned from the country of the intended destination to Serbia.

¹¹ Law on Asylum, Ar 2(6)

¹² Law on Asylum Ar 2(1)

¹³ United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Ar 31(1)

¹⁴ The decision on issuing confirmation of entry to the territory of the Republic of Serbia for migrants arriving from countries where their lives are in danger, point 1, 3 and 4

¹⁵ The decision on issuing confirmation of entry to the territory of the Republic of Serbia for migrants arriving from countries where their lives are in danger, point 4

From legal point of view, it is interesting to question the status of refugee / migrant illegally staying on the territory of Serbia, without reporting to the authorities, ie the question of possible penalties. After initially poor practice of imposing penalties to all refugees, there has been a change in practice, and we have not received information that any person was fined for illegal stay or entry into the territory of Serbia.

Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, proclaimed the absolute prohibition of expulsion of refugees¹⁶ to a territory where their lives or freedom would be threatened on account of his / her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or his / her political opinion.

3. Research methodology

The research was carried out in 6 months period – July 2015 till December 2015. Twenty visits were made during this period. In the beginning of the project, we've made two pilot visits which helped us to finalize the form of the questionnaire used in this research.

The visits:

Preševo (the reception center in Preševo and refugee camp in Miratovac) – two visits

Kanjiza (the reception center in Kanjiza and the old brickyard) – two visits

Sid (the reception center Principovac, border crossing Berkasovo – Babska) – one visit

Belgrade (parks close to the Belgrade bus station) – 15 visits.

The goal of the research was improving existing data about refugees/migrants and better understanding of the situation and needs of the refugees who are located on the Serbian territory, but have not been situated in the asylum seekers center.

Research tasks:

¹⁶ United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Ar33(1)

- To determine the sociodemographic characteristics – country of origin, sex, age, education, marital status, migratory routes, etc.
- Questioning about traumatic experiences in the country of origin, transit countries, Republic of Serbia, experiences of torture.
- Determination of basic needs – existential, legal, health/psychological

This has been a qualitative research; data are gathered through interviews based on a questionnaire that was set especially for this research. The questionnaire contains 40 questions (multiple-choice questions as well as open questions).

The participants of this research were the refugees/migrants that are settled in informal gathering places or reception centers in Serbia. 205 refugee/migrants participated in this research.

4. Presentation of the research results

4.1. Sample

205 interviews with refugees were made in the period between 01.07.2015-15.12.2015. The research has shown these results:

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	193	94,1
Female	12	5,9
Total	205	100

Table No. 1: Sex ratio

Gender ratio: out of 205 participants, the majority is male (193 persons – 94.1%), while females make up 5.9% (12 persons).

Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 18	18	8,8
18-35 years	154	75,1

35-50 years	26	12,7
50 and over	7	3,4
Total	205	100

Table No. 2: Age structure

Age structure: out of all participants, large percentage of them is 18-35 years old (75% or 154 persons), then there are 35-50 years old participants (12.7% or 26 persons), under 18 years old participants (8.8% or 18 persons) and the 50 and over 50 years old participants make up the lowest percentage (3.4% or 7 persons). We can conclude that the largest percentage of the participants is working age population. The youngest participant is 15 years old, the oldest is 62, and the average age is 27.

Country of origin	Frequency	Percent
Syria	90	43,9
Afghanistan	83	40,5
Iraq	26	12,7
Burma	1	0,5
Iran	2	1
Jamaica	1	0,5
Pakistan	2	1
Total	205	100

Table No. 3: Country of origin

Ethnic structure: the majority of the participants is from Syria (90 persons, 43.9%), Afghanistan and Iraq follow (83 Afghans – 40.5% and 26 Iraqis – 12.7%). Participants from Afghanistan have various ethnicities: most of them are Pashtuns (39 persons), then there are Hazaras (12 persons) and Tajiks (11 persons), whereas the rest of them declared themselves Afghans. Ethnicity that

also came to our attention in this research is the Kurds (14 persons), while the number of Yazidis, Palestinians, Sadats and Uzbeks is very small.

Education	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	21	10,2
Primary school	62	30,2
Secondary education	62	30,2
University degree	59	28,8
Missing data	1	0,5
Total	205	100

Table No. 4: Educational structure

Educational structure: most of the participants have graduated from primary (62 persons or 30.2%) or secondary school (62 persons or 30.2%), while 59 of them (28.8%) have graduated from university. However, certain number of the university graduates was forced to stop their education due to difficult circumstances in the country of origin (34 persons). We have also interviewed 21 persons with no formal education (10.2%).

Employment	Frequency	Percent
Yes	136	66,3
No	65	31,7
Missing data	4	2
Total	205	100

Table No. 5: Employment

Economic structure: more than half of the participants were employed in country of origin (136 persons or 66.3%), while 65 persons (31.7%) were unemployed and those are mostly students and pupils.

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Single	117	57,1
Married	86	42
Divorced	1	0,5
Missing data	1	0,5
Total	205	100

Table No. 6: marital status

Marital status: the majority of the participants is single (117 persons or 57.1%), followed by the married ones (86 persons or 42%).

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Atheist	2	1
Yazidis	2	1
Muslim	106	51,7
Shia	17	8,3
Sunni	75	36,6
Orthodox	1	0,5
Missing data	2	1
Total	205	100

Table No. 7: Religion

Religion: majority of the participants is Muslim (198 persons or 96.6%). Some of them declared as Sunni (75 persons) or Shia (17 persons). The number of Orthodox, atheist and Yazidis is negligible.

4.2. Refugee routes

Most of the refugees/migrants who participated in this research left the country of origin not more than one month before the interview (84 persons or 40.9%). 60 persons (29%) left the country of origin one to six months before the interview. The rest of the participants (57 persons or 28%) left the country of origin six months to two and even more years ago.

When did they leave the country of origin?	Frequency	Percent
Up to 1 month ago	84	41
1 to 6 months ago	60	29
6 to 12 months ago	12	6
1 to 2 years ago	18	9
2 and more than 2 years ago	27	13
Data missing	4	2
Total	205	100

Table No. 8: Moment of leaving the country of origin

Large number of people who left the country of origin more than a year ago spent their time living in the neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Iran and Greece as well, mostly outside the law.

There are two main refugee routes that lead to Serbia. One is across Turkey, Greece and Macedonia and the other goes through Turkey and Bulgaria.

Majority of the Syrian refugees who participated in this research traveled through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia (84 out of 90 or 93.3%). Only 5 refugees came to Serbia through Bulgaria. Iraqi refugees also use the Turkey-Greece-Macedonia route (19 persons, 73.1%), while smaller number came through Bulgaria (7 persons, 26.9%).

Afghan refugees arrived in Turkey across Iran, except for 13 of them who went through Pakistan to Iran and then to Turkey. 47 of the Afghan refugees (56.6%)

came to Serbia across Bulgaria and the rest of them (35 persons, 44.4%) went across Macedonia.

Germany is the preferred destination for the greater part of the refugees/migrants. 97 persons stated that they wish to go to Germany. They also mention Sweden (19 persons), Holland (12 persons), Norway (8 persons), Italy (7 persons) and rarely some other European countries.

4.3. The legal aspect

On the basis of this research, it can be noted that a large number of refugees / migrants who pass through the Republic of Serbia are not being informed of their legal status or their rights and obligations. The above is concluded on the basis of the information received that they do not want to report to the police, because they find that they could be fined for illegal crossing of the state border, or illegal stay on the territory of a state, as well as that it could result in them being returned to Serbia. Lack of knowledge of relevant both national and international regulations which could be of great help, is noticed.

There is the question of the adequacy of existing regulations regarding the reporting process to the police in the Republic of Serbia. More specifically, until recently, the reporting procedure to the police, represented the expression of the intention to seek asylum, which in most cases was not realistic, the actual intention of the applicant.

On 09/25/2015, Decision on Issuing certificates on entry to the territory of the Republic of Serbia for Refugees, entered into force, and by so the legal regulation of the institute reporting of refugees to the police has been improved. It has been established that by registering they do not become asylum seekers, and that the the certificate of entry to Serbia gives them the right to reside in the territory of the Republic of Serbia for a period of 72 hours.

According to available data, only 9% of respondents during their stay in the Republic of Serbia received some form of legal aid. This number is quite alarming, and it is necessary to establish a better system of informing refugees / migrants on their rights and obligations during their stay in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Informed about their rights and obligations in Serbia	Frequency	%
Yes	18	8.8
No	183	89.3
No data	4	1.9
Total respondents	205	100

Chart No.9: Rights and obligations

Based on the information received, 53% of the surveyed persons, or 109 of them, are registered in other transit countries (Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Bulgaria), and they finish quicker with the reporting process in Serbia since they already have papers. Those who do not have documents when reporting in Serbia undergo a higher degree of verifying the identity, and therefore wait longer for the certificate.

Regarding the reporting procedure, it is necessary to emphasize the lack of competent services – interpreters, for smooth and precise expression and collecting information. Although the number of interpreters present at the reception centers has increased, that number is still insufficient for the efficient operation of members of the authorities.

Registration in transit	Frequency	%
Yes	109	53
No	96	47
Total respondents	205	100

Chart No. 10: Registration in transit countries

It should be pointed out that the answers to the questions on the registration in the transit countries vary, not only from country to country, but also from the period in which the interviews were made, so that we take this data with caution.

Specifically, Macedonia did not initially registered refugees / migrants, but that eventually changed. For Greece there are periodically obtained data that they have been registering everyone, but sometimes that they only carried refugees out further to the Macedonian border, without registering them.

Although according to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, these persons must not be punished for illegal entry and stay in the territory of any State, if they report immediately to the authorities and give reasons for their illegal entry¹⁷, among respondents were those who claimed that they were in prison in one of the transit countries, but also that in the Republic of Serbia they paid the fine.

Country of origin	Frequency	%
Syria	5	16,13
Afghanistan	23	74,19
Iraq	3	9,68
Total	31	100

Chart No. 11: Prison sentences in transit countries before the Republic of Serbia

Among those who paid the fines in the Republic of Serbia, there are those who were, according to information provided, asked for a certain amount of money from the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, without issuing any certificates, but there are also those who have been prosecuted for the illegal crossing of the state border and illegal stay on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. The total number of respondents who were in one of these ways punished by paying fines / fees, is 5, which is 2.44% of total amount of respondents.

The question whether refugees / migrants have a travel document or any other document that can prove identity with them, is interesting to show that the

¹⁷ United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, Ar 31(1)

majority of Afghans and Iraqis have no documents with them, while refugees / migrants from Syria mostly have documents.

Country of origin	Have documents	No documents
Avganistan	5,26 %	94,74 %
Sirija	61 %	39 %
Irak	30 %	70 %
Out of total number of respondents 195*	36,1 %	59,02 %

Chart No.12: Possesion of documents

* For 10 persons, there is no data.

4.4. Traumatic experiences of refugees / migrants and the experience of torture / ill-treatment

Trauma is a sudden stressful event such as psychophysical response of individuals to the event. Traumatic stress events may be events that belong to the group of natural disaster and the events that are caused by man, such as traffic accidents, war, captivity, torture and other stressful life events caused by human factor. War contains a number of stressful life events caused by man, which may be of different intensity and different duration and as a specific catastrophic experience can have long lasting effects on mental and physical health of the individual.

All respondents in this research, refugees / migrants, who mostly come with Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq have many traumatic experiences in the country of origin and in countries through which they passed on their way to Serbia. The most common trauma in the countries of origin of which they speak are related to the events of the war and other armed conflicts. These are also the main reasons for leaving the country.

When it comes to respondents from Syria, the most common traumatic experiences by allegations received were related to the war that is taking place in their country. The bombing is a very common occurrence. It is often referred that they have been bombed with barrels filled with explosives. On this occasion,

many are left without a roof over their head and have no place to live. Many have lost close family members, parents and children. At the same time they often witnessed the killing of civilians and children in the streets. Fear of recruitment and mobilization is also very present, as well as the fear of kidnapping and arrest by the regime. It is sufficient that the identity card has address and place of residence, which belongs to the territory held by the rebel army, and that is sufficient reason for arrest and detention. Generally, refugees from Syria in this research do not see an end to the war in Syria, do not feel safe to live there, do not see anything positive in the future and this is usually referred to as the main reason for leaving the country.

Afghan refugees who participated in this research also as the most traumatic experience and reason of leaving the country of origin listed events of the war, although the war officially ended in their country. The majority of respondents from Afghanistan coming from parts of the country that are controlled by Taliban or the Islamic state. Many have witnessed suicide attacks on the streets and most of them suffered threats from the Taliban or members of the ranks of the Islamic state. Death threats are common and forcing to join militant groups. They have no opportunity to go to school, to work or to achieve the minimum requirements for a "normal" life, which is often referred to as an additional reason for leaving the country of origin.

The refugees coming from Iraq, although the war in Iraq officially ended, also have experience of violence by different military groups. It is often stated that in Iraq act five different armed groups. Quite often they witnessed suicide attacks, killings, many have lost close family members in these conflicts. They do not see their future in the country of origin or the ability to form normal living conditions.

70% of respondents in this research stated they had experienced traumatic experiences in the countries of transit. Most often traumatic experiences are traveling by boat from Turkey to Greece for those who have traveled this route, and passing through Bulgaria for those who went by land to Western Europe.

Refugees who traveled by boat across the sea from Turkey to Greece allege that they paid large sums of money (about 1200 euros) to the smugglers to be on board. According to their experiences, boats are always overcrowded and the

number of refugees is ten times higher than the number which the ship can accommodate. Many have experienced the ship sank and were rescued by the Greek navy. Some of them have spent several hours in the water before they were saved. On this journey many lost their personal belongings because smugglers threw their backpacks and bags with things in the water making the boat lighter.

For refugees who went by land to Western Europe, mainly Afghans, as the largest and the most traumatic experience in the countries of transit they stated the treatment of the Bulgarian police¹⁸.

Another traumatic experiences in the countries of transit alleged by interviewed refugees / migrants are related to the route that is exhausting, includes long-term walking, living and sleeping in the open. When it comes to Afghans, who went through Iran crossing the mountains, hiking in the woods when they were going through Bulgaria was very traumatic experience.

When asked about the traumatic experiences in the Republic of Serbia, the majority of respondents replied in the negative. 8% of respondents complained about the long waiting for the reporting to the police in Presevo, but also about paying huge sums of money to the smugglers or the taxis for transport, as well as the conditions of their stay whether in reception centers or in the parks in Belgrade.

4.4.1. The experiences of torture / ill-treatment

Considering results of this research, there are indications that among the refugees who participated in this study, there are survivors of torture / ill-treatment. Information about experiences of torture / ill-treatment which were gathered in this study were obtained on the basis of responses during the interviews.

According to the United Nations Convention against Torture, torture means *„any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third*

¹⁸More on this in part on the experiences of torture in the following paragraphs

*person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions."*¹⁹

The experience of torture is one of the most traumatic events, even when compared with other traumas caused by war events. That such extreme interpersonal trauma threatens to seriously damage the psychological and physical health of the individual. The consequences of torture experience may be multiple and very durable. The most common effects on the mental health is developing post-traumatic stress disorder²⁰.

Considering results of investigation 29.8% of respondents, or 61 respondents out of 205 stated to have survived some form of torture / ill-treatment in the country of origin. The percentage of victims of torture / ill-treatment is in accordance with existing researches and estimates in the literature²¹. All respondents experienced torture / ill-treatment were male.

Torture in the country of origin	Frequency	%
Yes	61	29,8
No	139	67,8
No data	5	2,4
Total respondents	205	100

Chart No.13 - Torture in the country of origin

¹⁹ Convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Ar 1(1)

²⁰ Posttraumatic stress disorder is a mental disorder that arises as a delayed and / or sustained response to a traumatic event. 3 groups of symptoms within PTSD symptoms intrusions (disturbing recollections of the traumatic event, disturbing dreams of the event, flash-back episodes, etc.), avoidance (effort to avoid thoughts, feelings and conversations about the trauma, avoidance of activities, places and people who resemble the trauma, the sense of alienation, etc.) increased vegetative excitability (problems with sleeping and falling asleep, outbursts of anger and irritability, problems with concentration, etc.).

²¹ Recognising victims of torture in national asylum procedures – A comparative overview od early identification of victims and their access to medico-legal reports in asylum – receiving counties, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, 2013

Out of 90 respondents who are originally from Syria, 23 of them, or 25.6% claimed they had experienced torture / ill-treatment in Syria.

Torture - Syria	Frequency	%
Yes	23	25,6%
No	66	73,3%
No data	1	1,15
Total respondents	90	100%

Chart No.14 - Torture in the country of origin - Syria

The most common perpetrators of acts of torture / ill-treatment, on the basis of respondents from Syria in this study, are the forces of the regime. Two respondents stated that the perpetrators were members of the forces of the Islamic state. The largest number of victims had been kidnapped or arrested, and spent in prison from several days to several months. The reason for the torture often cited a religious affiliation, and that they were tortured because they are Sunni Muslims. The doubts that they cooperate with the rebel army, which is mostly unfounded, was also stated as a reason. Often enough reason is that the victim lives in a territory that is "rebellious". Based on the statements of the victims, it can be said that the methods of torture / ill-treatment which perpetrators applied were brutal. Victims speak about the harsh daily beatings, strangulation, hanging, torture with electricity. Intimidation, threats and humiliation are accompanying psychological methods of abuse about which respondents testify.

Out of 83 respondents who are originally from Afghanistan, 32 respondents or 38.6% report that experienced some form of torture / ill-treatment in the country of origin.

Torture - Afghanistan	Frequency	%
Yes	23	25,6%
No	66	73,3%
No data	1	1,15
Total respondents	90	100%

Chart No.15- Torture in the country of origin - Afghanistan

The most common ill-treatment they have experienced was coming from members of the Taliban or the Islamic state. Respondents were living in the territory of Afghanistan that was occupied or held by Taliban or Islamic state. Most often were psychological methods of ill-treatment, death threats, intimidation, forcing the warfare and to join their ranks. Also, there were physical abuses, beatings, kidnappings.

Even the sample of refugees from Iraq in the study was much lower, 29.2%, or 26 respondents, 5 of them reported that they had the experience of torture / ill-treatment in Iraq.

Torture - Iraq	Frequency	%
Yes	5	19,2%
No	21	80,8%
Total respondents	26	100%

Chart No.16 – Torture in the country of origin - Iraq

On the basis of respondents, perpetrators of torture / ill-treatment were official police and members of Islamic state on the territory occupied by them. Methods of torture / ill-treatment of which they have spoken were mainly methods of physical abuse, whipping when it comes to members of the Islamic countries as well as psychological methods of intimidation and death threats.

42% of respondents in this study, or 86 respondents out of 205, reported that they have experienced some form of torture or inhumane treatment in the countries of transit.

Torture in transit countries	Frequency	%
Yes	86	42%
No	115	56%
No data	4	2%
Total respondents	205	100%

Tabela br.17 - Tortura u tranzitu

In more detail, out of 61 respondents who experienced torture / ill-treatment in the country of origin, 31 of them, meaning 50.8% had experienced another form of torture or inhumane treatment in the transit countries. Re-experiencing similar traumatic experience for such a short time, suddenly in another context, makes the victim even more sensitive to developing psychological and physical consequences. If we add to this all the other traumatic experiences that the victim suffered in the war-torn country and on the long road to Western Europe, it is clear that the effect of trauma on its functioning is even greater.

The experiences of torture, ill-treatment and inhuman treatment in transit countries on which respondents reported in this research were mostly related to the police conduct in Iran, Lebanon, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and Macedonia. The most common reason for such treatment, as respondents see it, is an attempt to cross the border. In August, after the closure of the Greek-Macedonian border, a large number of refugees have complained that they have suffered torture / ill-treatment by Macedonian police. The most frequently was excessive use of force by the police, and hitting with batons. The experiences of inhumane treatment suffered in transit countries were long, as they see, unnecessary waitings on the paperwork, lounge and keeping them in inhumane conditions without sufficient food and water, as well as humiliation.

Based on the results of this research, what stands out and suggests a possible systematic torture is Bulgarian police conduct towards refugees, majority Afghans who went by land to Europe. 39 Afghan refugee claims to have suffered torture in Bulgaria. And from 47 of them who came to Serbia via Bulgaria, 39 or 82.9% said they had experiences torture in Bulgaria. In prison, they spent from five days to two months. Everyone have very similar experiences, saying that they were beaten with batons every day, that they were robbed (have been taken all the money) and that they took away their mobile phones. Some have reported that the police had chased them with dogs through the woods in Bulgaria. The reason for the torture they see the fact that they are refugees, Afghans, or the fact that they tried to cross the border.

When asked whether they had experiences of torture and / or inhuman treatment in the Republic of Serbia, the respondents mainly answered in the negative. Only 5 respondents stated they had suffered such an experience.

These experiences were related mainly to the conditions in the reception center in Presevo, where they waited from few hours up to three days to enter the center. Also they reported that they could not leave the center until they were registered, that in the center there was not enough food, and that adult men was not given any meal.

Based on the above research results, it is clear that among the refugees who transit through Serbia, there is a large number of highly traumatized people and victims of torture or ill-treatment that they have suffered in the country of origin or in transit countries.

According to Article 3 of the UN Convention against Torture, person who may be subjected to torture in the country where it came from, should not be returned to that country.²² According to Article 14 of the Convention, all States parties, including the Republic of Serbia, are obliged to ensure in its legal system that the victim of torture receives compensation, as well as the right to fair and adequate compensation, including the most complete rehabilitation.²³ States Parties should, in their asylum system, recognize the need for an early, comprehensive rehabilitation of victims of torture among refugees and asylum seekers, which should include medical and psychological care, as well as social and legal services.²⁴ Although refugees are mainly now only passing through our country, it is likely that the Republic of Serbia is about to face with a large number of asylum seekers in future. The asylum system should include the early identification of victims of torture which as a practice exists in many countries.

The need for early identification of particularly vulnerable categories of asylum seekers shows the fact that the Reception Directive 2013/33 / EC obliges Member States to introduce mechanisms of screening for the sake of identifying highly vulnerable categories of asylum seekers, which include victims of torture.²⁵ Early identification benefits and the state of which the victim seeks protection, because providing medical - psychological help can prevent further

²² Convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Ar 3(1)

²³ Convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Ar 14(1)

²⁴ UN Committee against Torture. General Comment No3: Implementation of Article 14 by State parties. 13 December 2012

²⁵ Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, Ar 22-25

deterioration of mental and physical health of the victim. That is, victims health problems can be even greater "burden" of the country, in the long term, if they remain unrecognized and untreated.

On the other hand, the early identification of victims of torture among asylum seekers allows the victim to have as soon as possible a complete request for asylum on the basis of medical documentation of torture. Medical documentation of torture or the medical legal report (MLR) is a report that includes physical and / or psychological evaluation of torture victims, as well as findings and opinions of the relationship between the physical and / or psychological effects and experiences of torture and abuse, that the victim stated²⁶. The recommendation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Office of the United Nations is that Istanbul Protocol²⁷ should be used in the process of documenting torture.

4.5. Aid received/people behavior/needs assessment

Refugees/migrants who took part in this research mostly received aid in the form of food and clothing, both in transit countries and in Serbia. Generally, they don't know where the help came from, but they've been mentioning UNHCR and the Red Cross most frequently.

Medical help is also provided, but only 35 refugees/migrants (17.1%) received it in Serbia. Most of them got medical care in some of the reception centers, but also in the park near the Belgrade bus station. We can say that, in general, the ones who had health problems got medical care.

When it comes to rights and responsibilities awareness, as well as providing adequate legal assistance when necessary, what concerns us is the fact that only 9% of the participants received some kind of legal assistance.

42.4% of the refugees/migrants who took part in this research said that people in transit countries treated them correctly. 17.6% of them said that they have been treated poorly. Mistreatment of refugees/migrants is commonly linked to

²⁶ Trivuncic B.,: Pravo na slobodu i zaštitu od torture (The right to liberty and protection from torture), Izazovi sistema azila, Grupa 484, Belgrade, 2014., pg 55

²⁷ The Istanbul Protocol is the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It is designed for doctors, psychologists and lawyers.

Iran and Bulgaria. The participants said that they've been treated nicely in Turkey and Greece.

Average in the answers on how our participants have been treated in the transit countries is 2.33, where the maximum score is 4 and minimum is 1. As for Serbia, the average is 2.82. When we analyze if there is a significant difference between these two numbers, we come to conclusion that the participants found people in Serbia much more pleasant than the ones in transit countries. Of course, it's perfectly normal to say more positive things about the country where you reside at the moment than those you've passed before and this can be changed the moment you enter the next country. Therefore, these results should be taken with caution.

	N	AS	S. deviation	Std. Error Mean
the behavior of residents in transit	199	2.33	.803	.057
the behavior of the population in Serbia	190	2.82	.720	.052

Table No. 18 – Average in the answers on how the participants have been treated

One-Sample Test			
	t	df	Sig.
the behavior of residents in transit	40.858	198	.000
the behavior of the population in Serbia	54.025	189	.000

Table No. 19 – analysis T - test

When we talk about needs, refugees who participated in this research said they need food, water, warm clothes and blankets. They also felt the need to rest, take a breath, find some peace and talk to their families at home. But most of all, they want to leave Serbia and go on with their journey.

4.6. Report on conducted visits

During the implementation of project activities, or in the past six months, as the implementation of the project lasted, the situation on the ground has been changing. In August 2015, the general impression was that the Serbian

authorities were not prepared for the upcoming wave of migration. The conditions in which refugees / migrants were residing have been quite bad, the reception of refugees / migrants was inadequate and practice of state authorities generally uneven. During the project, the situation has changed, there has been an improvement of conditions and more or less consistency of treatment.

4.6.1. One stop center Preševo (reception center)

During the first visit to the Reception Center in Presevo, on 02/09/2015, conditions in the center were inadequate. Center capacity was insufficient for the number of users. The refugees / migrants were lying and sitting on the ground. A large number of refugees interviewed stated that they have received food only once when they entered the center, and according to them that in certain cases means once every two and a half days. Some have claimed that they spent three days in the center and that they were not allowed to leave it until after the police report. The doctor is present in the center each day, in two shifts, although many of the refugees with whom the conversation took place did not know that they had medical assistance available. The Red Cross was present with containers which have contained food, water and basic pharmaceuticals and hygiene products, but most of the refugees with whom the conversation took place did not know that they will get only one package of food when they enter the center. There was a great dissatisfaction among refugees. Most were dissatisfied with conditions in the center, the duration of the application process and the inability to get out of the center.

On the second day of the visit to the Reception Center in Presevo, conditions were noticeably better. The center itself was cleaned, toilets uncorked, one of the tents was redecorated in the children's room, with a large number of toys. That day was the announced visit of Ministers Vulin and Stefanovic to this center. Interviewed refugees / migrants, generally were not informed that at the center they can get medical assistance, that they would be entitled to only one package of food, about how much time they will remain at the center and that they could not leave center until they report to the police.

After more than a month, more precisely on 30/10/2015, a return visit to the Reception Center in Presevo took place. The conditions in the center were fairly

improved. The number of tents, which were empty at the time of the visit, but were prepared for the upcoming cold period.

Hygienic conditions were much better than during the first visit. There were more mobile toilets, as well as two tents in which pregnant women and mothers with small children could spend time to rest, children to play, to change baby clothes. There was more members of the Ministry of Interior, a number of computer equipment and the reporting process itself took place much faster than during the first visit. The refugees / migrants were leaving center within 30 minutes to one hour.

And this time the reception center was fenced, uniformed person with a weapon was located at all points of entry / exit, and did not allow anyone who is not reported to the police, to come out.

Conditions in the center are much improved compared to the conditions during the first visit.

4.6.2. Camp for the reception of refugees / migrants in Miratovac

During the first visit to the camp in Miratovac, 03/09/2015, several large tents were set up and one container where doctors provided medical assistance. The refugees / migrants had available bottled drinking water but the water stood in the sun and probably was not adequate for drinking. From there, refugees / migrants were instructed to walk around 10km to go to the Reception Center in Presevo. Transportation was provided only for mothers with small children, UNHCR vehicles were used in emergencies.

On the other hand, the next visit the camp in Miratovac, on 31/10/2015, the improvement of conditions was evident. At the entrance to the camp, counter was set, and according to the information received, there should be a precise data on the number of persons passing through. Representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), transported mothers with small children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled to the center in Presevo, while the others walked about 2 kilometers, from where buses were transporting them to the Reception Center in Presevo. UNHCR vehicles were also used in an emergency for the transport of small children. Transport for mothers and

children as well as for other vulnerable groups took place up to 5 PM. According to information received, it happens that during the night families with small children were coming and it would be useful to have the ability to transport them in the evenings and nights as well.

4.6.3. Old Brickyard

The refugees / migrants who were coming to Subotica, were gathered in the Old Brickyard, where they spent some time before continuing their journey to Hungary. The conditions in the brickyard could not be considered adequate, given the lack of toilets, no drinkable water, no indoor space, or persons of the medical profession to provide first aid. There were improvised showers on the street, as well as wireless internet.

4.6.4. Kanjiza

During the first visit to Kanjiza, on 05/08/2015, the informal gathering places for refugees / migrants were parks in front of city hall in Kanjiza. Parks were in very poor hygienic state, without adequate conditions, food or medical aid.

After twenty day there was another visit to Kanjiza. The refugees / migrants were no longer gathered in parks in front of city hall, they were placed in a reception center in Kanjiza. The Centre was relatively clean, had a flowing drinking water, toilets, medical assistance and the Red Cross was bringing food.

4.6.5. Sid

At the time of visit to Sid, on 29/09/2015, the crossing of the border of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Croatia was at an informal place, close to the border crossing Berkasovo / Bapska. The conditions in which refugees / migrants were held, were very inadequate. There was not enough toilets, everywhere was mud and garbage. Ambulance team was present, UNHCR representatives and activists of People in Need, and they were doing everything to help. There was organized transportation of refugees / migrants from Presevo and Belgrade to Sid, and from there they were crossing on foot to the Croatia, where they waited for a bus to transport them further. The problem happened

when Croatia stopped accepting refugees on its territory, or when changed the route of transportation of refugees / migrants on their territory.

A month after the visit, train was established in order to transport refugees from Serbia to Croatia.

4.6.6. Belgrade

In Belgrade, 15 visits to the informal gathering places of refugees / migrants were carried out, ie in parks around the Belgrade bus station and in front of the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade. During the first visit, a large number of refugees have lived in parks. The conditions were inadequate.

During the project realization, due to changes in the flow of migration (closing the Hungarian border, and transition to Croatian border), as well as better organization of the authorities in the Republic of Serbia, the situation in informal gathering places of refugees / migrants in Belgrade, has changed.

From the the Reception Centre in Presevo, there was organized transportation of refugees / migrants to Sid or Adasevac Reception Centre, where they were transported by train to the Croatia, and that all resulted in reducing the number of present refugees / migrants in Belgrade. In this period, in most cases in Belgrade were present refugees / migrants from Afghanistan, meaning those who in the Republic of Serbia entered through Bulgaria. By organized transport they were taken to the asylum center located in Krnjaca, where they can stay, obtain food, receive medical and other assistance, while during the day, some of them were coming to the park near the bus station, in order to inquire about further transport for Croatia.

During the day, they were mainly going to Miksaliste where they could receive assistance, clothing and footwear. In the parks in Belgrade, doctors and representatives of the Red Cross are present, and the Information Desk with a interpreter.

5. Recommendations

1. Establishment of a system for informing refugees / migrants on their rights and obligations, as well as mechanisms to provide legal assistance during their stay in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.
2. Provision of adequate number of interpreters for refugees / migrants in reception centers, camps, centers for asylum and all other places of formal gatherings of refugees / migrants in the Republic of Serbia.
3. Providing transport for refugees / migrants through Serbia, primarily from the camp in Miratovac to the reception center in Presevo.
4. Establishment of a mechanism of identifying victims of torture and other highly traumatized persons as refugees or asylum seekers with an emphasis on detecting and documenting the signs of torture and other forms of physical and psychological violence.
5. Access to comprehensive rehabilitation (psychological, medical, social and legal assistance) to victims of torture among refugees or asylum seekers.

ANNEX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Sex **M F**
2. Age: _____
3. Country of origin:
 1. Syria
 2. Afghanistan
 3. Somalia
 4. Eritrea
 5. Iraq_____
4. Nationality

5. Level of Education:
 1. No education
 2. Elementary school
 3. High School
 4. Higher education_____
6. Have you been employed in the country of origin?
Yes No
7. Marital status:
 1. Single
 2. Married / living together
 3. Divorced
 4. Marriage with multiple persons
 5. Widowed
 6. Unknown
8. Religious status:

9. When you have left the country of origin:

10. Travelling with family
Yes No
11. The main reason for leaving the country of origin:

If from war-affected areas, were you involved in the war?
Yes No
If yes, were you forced to participate in war?

- Place of entry into Serbia:

12. Transit countries
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- _____
- _____

13. Would you go to another country or stay in Serbia?

1. Other country _____
2. Serbia

14. Do you have friends or relatives in the country of your destination?

Yes No

15. Have you been punished (imprisonment / fines) for illegal border crossing in one of the transit countries?

No

Fine

Prison

Where: _____

16. Have you been punished (imprisonment / fines) for illegal border crossing in Serbia?

No

Fine

Prison

Where: _____

17. Do you have documents?

Yes No

18. Have you registered with the police in some transit country?

Yes No

19. Have you applied for asylum in some transit country?

Yes No

20. Have you registered with the police in Serbia?

Yes No

21. Have you applied for asylum in Serbia?

Yes No

22. In what way was expressed intent / request for asylum in Serbia?

1. At the Border
2. At the police station
3. The center for asylum
4. Through NGO

23. Did you receive legal or other assistance from NGOs in Serbia?

Yes No

from: _____

help: _____

24. Do you need legal assistance?

Yes No

25. Did you receive assistance of some institutions from the moment of leaving the country of origin to the arrival in Serbia?

Yes No

From who _____

26. How would you describe the attitude of the local population of the countries through which you passed?

1. Bad
2. Not good not bad

- 3. Good
- 4. Very good

27. How would you describe the attitude of the local population in Serbia?

- 1. Bad
- 2. Not good not bad
- 3. Good
- 4. Very good

28. What is the greatest trauma that you experienced in the countries of transit?

29. What is the greatest trauma that you experienced in Serbia?

Have you had experiences of maltreatment, torture, psychological or physical abuse by state authorities (military, police, paramilitary forces, rebels ...) in country of origin?

Yes No

Who: _____

Where: _____

Reason: _____

Description: _____

If not, does this happen to someone close family member?

Yes No Who: _____

30. Have you had experiences of maltreatment, torture, psychological or physical abuse by state authorities (military, police, paramilitary forces, rebels ...) in the countries of transit?

Yes No

Who:

Where:

Reason:

Description: _____

If not, does this happen to someone close family member?

Yes No Who: _____

31. Have you had experiences of maltreatment, torture, psychological or physical abuse by state authorities (military, police, paramilitary forces, rebels ...) in Serbia?

Yes No

Who:

Where:

Reason:

Description: _____

If not, does this happen to someone close family member?

Yes No Who: _____

32. Did you receive any medical help in Serbia?

Da Ne

33. Do you have any medical problems that you might need some help?

Yes No

34. What do you need most while staying in the Republic of Serbia?

ANNEX 2

REPORTS ON THE VISIT OF INFORMAL GATHERING PLACES

FOR REFUGEES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

17.07.2015. - Belgrade, parks around the Main Railway station

Three parks in the region of the Main Railway station in Belgrade were the subject of the visit: park in front of the Faculty of Economics, park between incoming and outgoing platforms of the Main Bus station in Belgrade and park at the corner of Nemanjina and Sarajevska streets. Over 150 refugees have been observed, all in groups, usually families. We talked with groups of refugees, in which often only one person speaks English, or none in which case they would ask a friend from other group for help in translation. There are a total of 12 fulfilled surveys.

On their way to Serbia, they've passed through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. Some of them registered in the police, and by doing so they've expressed their wish to apply for the asylum in Serbia, even though that is not their true wish. Large amount of them do not wish to register in the police, because they do not want to have their fingerprints checked. Only one interviewee stated that he wishes to stay in Serbia, and all the others expressed that their goal is to reach to Germany or Sweden. About half of the interviewees are with minor children. Women who took part in our research told us that their biggest problem is that they do not have where to maintain hygiene. The educational structure of the respondents is combined: about half of them with secondary education, while the other half with a university degree (doctors, professors, officials in the administration, etc). We have been informed that they had several problems regarding their stay in Serbia, as well as throughout the whole of their journey from their country of citizenship to Serbia. One of the refugees was arrested in Greece. In the Serbia/Macedonia border, they have been given help from the Macedonian Red Cross (food, clothes, and hygienic products). Most problems, as they told us, they had and have in connection with accommodation, and therefore with hygiene and money. Regarding the accommodation, it often happens that when they see them, hotels or hostels refuse to give them a room, saying that they are fully booked. As far as money problems, interviewees

pointed out that they have paid to be transported to some destination, but several times happen that they do not arrive at the wished place, also in stores it happened that the saleslady do not want to sell them food, or charge them more. As we have been informed, in Serbia they did not have any problems with the State Authorities, including the Police. We noticed that some of them are trying to earn some money by selling sunglasses in the park. Three participants from Syria complained about not being able to raise money in banks. In order to provide them with some help, we went with one of them to the nearest bank (Banca Intesa across the street from the park between the incoming and outgoing bus station platforms), where we have been informed that it is the order not to provide any person from Syria with any money. On our question who ordered that and on what legal ground, we have been informed that the reason is fear of financing of terrorism and money laundering. Then we went to the second nearest bank (Societe Generale), and there was no problem for this interviewee to receive his money via Western Union.

One of the interviewees from the Afghanistan stated that he had problems with the Macedonian border police, as well as that smugglers are asking for 2k-3k for the ride to some of the EU countries. One of his children had injured hand, but he does not want to seek for any medical help here in Serbia, he wants to wait and seek for the medical help in Germany.

Data collected from the survey:

Refugees from Syria	4
Refugees from Afghanistan	3
Refugees from Somalia	2
Refugees from Iran	2
Refugees from Iraq	1
Male refugees	9
Female refugees	3
20-30 years	6
30-40 years	4
40-50 years	2
Arrived in Belgrade 1 day before the visit	7
Arrived in Belgrade 2 days before the visit	3

Arrived in Belgrade 5 days before the visit	2
Plan to leave Serbia on the same day	5
Plan to leave Serbia tomorrow	6
Plan to stay in Serbia	1
Registered with the police/expressed their intention to seek asylum	8
Not registered with the police	4
Applied for asylum	1

21.07.2015. - Belgrade, Police station Savski venac and surroundings of the Asylum Centre in Krnjaca

The subject of the visit was Police station Savski venac - Directorate of Immigration, and surroundings of the Asylum Centre in Krnjaca. In front of the police station, about 40 of refugees were waiting either for the issue of the certificate of their given intention of seeking asylum or were waiting in line for the registration. In the surroundings of the Asylum Centre in Krnjaca no refugee were found. We talked with groups of refugees, in which often only one person speaks English, or none in which case they would ask a friend from other group for help in translation. There are a total of 5 fulfilled surveys.

Interviewees stated that they were waiting in front of the police station from the early morning hours in order to register. One pregnant woman was present, whose husband asked the police officer for the privilege pass, but with no success. We witnessed the situation when that same police officer was giving information and help to those refugees in front of the police station, on a very polite way. He told us that they have a big problem with some refugees who come to register two, three or more times on different names, in order to receive legal stay in Serbia for another 72 hours. Furthermore, after they are told that they cannot reregister, but that they can go to the Asylum Centre they've been granted and seek for the asylum which would legalize their stay in Serbia for longer period of time, they still do not want to go, but instead they stay in front of the police station. We have been informed by the refugees in front of the police station, that they had several problems regarding their stay in Serbia, as well as throughout the whole of their journey from their country of citizenship to Serbia. Most problems, as we have been informed, they had and

have in connection with accommodation. When they ask for a room in the hotel or hostel, they usually get the information that they cannot accept them because they do not have valid registered residence in Serbia, which is the reason why they try again to register in the police. One refugee also stated that some person in uniform took his money. Apart from that, they stated that they did not have any other problems with the Serbian State Authorities.

All refugees that we met in front of the police station are from Syria, and on their way to Serbia they've passed through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. All interviewed refugees stated that they are staying in Serbia only until they reach Germany or Sweden.

The age structure of the interviewed refugees is 20-35 years. Only male refugees were interviewed as they were majority (there was only one woman). Only one family with children was there, and others were travelling with friends.

Data collected from the survey:

Refugees from Syria	5
Male refugees	5
Female refugees	0
20-30 years	4
30-40 years	1
Arrived in Belgrade 2 days before the visit	4
Arrived in Belgrade 3 days before the visit	1
Plan to leave Serbia on the same day	1
Plan to leave Serbia tomorrow	4
Registered with the police/expressed their intention to seek asylum	5

05.08.2015. - Subotica and Kanjiža

A team composed of Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer), Vojislav Đurašinić (demgraf) and Bojane Trivunčić (psychologist) visited the old brickyard, informal gathering place for refugees in Subotica, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. About 50 refugees was present, mostly in groups of 5-9 persons. According to information received from the translator, the day before there was over 200 refugees.

There was a team from the Czech organization *People in Need*, which shared fresh bread, water, pate, sardines and basic hygiene products to refugees. On the other side of the street, showers with running water were installed, as well as wireless internet.

Most of present refugees is originally from Syria, but there were also from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Burma. Refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan did not want to talk to us. Interviews were conducted with refugees from Syria and Burma.

We received information that some of them the day before payed each 1500 EUR to unknown person who had promised to take them across the border, but at the moment when we were there, they were still present in the brickyard. One of the refugees said that he sought asylum in Serbia in order to extend the period of legal stay, but he had a problem with the border police and he was sprayed in the eyes, after which he lost his backpack in which he had all his documents.

Everyone we talked to on the way to Serbia went through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. Most of the respondents were aged 20-35 years, the majority are men, only one is a woman. The interviewed men who have a family, generally travel without a family, the family is in Syria or Lebanon. They hope to join them in one of the countries to which they were headed. Most often, as the destination Germany, Spain and Sweden were stated.

According to them, they are not expecting anything from Serbia, and they do not need anything, but to manage to proceed to the country of their destination.

After the "Brickyard" visit, we went to the Kanjiza - park in front the city hall. About 70 refugees was present, mostly in groups of 7-12, and according to information obtained, a day before there was over 200 refugees. Representatives of the Slovak and Hungarian media were present.

Most of refugees were aged 20-35 years, mostly men. Some travel with their families, some on their way lost a family member, but everyone is wishing to go to countries in Western Europe.

According to the information we received from respondents, a large number of present refugees previously managed to cross the border into Hungary, but were

returned to Serbia. Police in Serbia held them closed in a room that can accommodate up to 5 people, while they were about 50 of them. As we were told, some were left with no cloths and asked for 50 EUR each in order to let them out. In this process some of them lost documents.

Present refugees were mainly from Syria, and on the way to Serbia they passed through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia.

Many of interviewed refugees have the experience of torture in their country of origin, mainly in Syria and Lebanon. They pointed out that kidnappings requesting redemption are frequent.

Mostly they say that their worst experience was passing through Greece or Macedonia, and that they felt best in Preševo.

14.08.2015. – Belgrade

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) visited the parks near bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering places for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. About 300 refugees were present, mostly in groups of 5-10 persons that are traveling together. There were many families, mothers with small children. Conditions are very bad, parks are full of garbage, and there are not enough garbage cans or mobile toilets. Water tank is located at the time when the visit took place.

Basic data and general impressions:

During this visit, 11 interviews were done with 11 refugees from Syria. Most of them are in Serbia no longer than 2 to 3 days. On the way to Serbia they went through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. All interviewed refugees want to continue with their journey to Western Europe, and Germany, Netherlands and Sweden are most wanted countries. Most of the respondents were aged 20-40 years; they were all man, Muslim religion. Most of them are not well informed about asylum procedures in Serbia and possibilities to be settled in refugee camps (Centres for asylum seekers). They didn't receive any help in Serbia. Only one interviewed refugee has been "registered" in the police in Presevo, all others interviewed didn't express attention for asylum in Serbia.

Vulnerable groups:

Among interviewed refugees are torture victims too, that have been tortured in Syria and Lebanon. Many of them experienced inhuman treatment on the way to Serbia such as forced accommodation in very poor and bad conditions for a long time.

In one group of refugees (five of them) that have been interviewed was a minor boy that is traveling together with his brother and friends.

Some of interviewed refugees complained on health problems which are mostly health difficulties related to long journey such as stomach ache, tired legs. No one of interviewed man received any medical help in Serbia. One interviewed young man has psychological problems, he is taking medicines and at the moment he is stable.

In another group of refugees that were interviewed was a pregnant woman that travels with her husband and with her two young children. It's early pregnancy and she said that she doesn't need medical help or gynaecological examination at this stage.

Refugees at the parks looked very tired and exhausted, they expressed need to talk about their problems and trauma that experienced in country of origin as well as in transit countries. They do not complain, and they have only one wish to continue with their journey.

Problems with the police:

One group of refugees (three of them) from Syria that were interviewed, claim that police officers in Belgrade took their money because they didn't have ID documents and they didn't register in the police station. Police officers intercepted refugees in front of currency exchange office, asked for ID and when they found out that they don't have IDs or "register paper" from the police department, required from them to pay fine of 500 Euros. One refugee paid 500 Euros, the other had only 300 Euros so they took 300, and the third one paid 150 Euros. Refugees haven't got any receipt that they have paid fine, police officers just gave them a piece of paper on which is written the address of police department in Belgrade (Savska 35, Police Department).

24.08.2015. – Beograd

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojane Trivunčić (psychologist) visited parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. There is a large number of refugees around the main bus station, about 1000 of them, and a lot of families and children. The previous night a large number of refugees came to Serbia from Macedonia, which is the reason for increased number of them staying in the park compared to previous visits. Park looks cleaner compared to the previous visit, but still the hygienic conditions are very bad and there are not enough toilets. Refugees are sitting and lying on the ground, but there are those who use tents they carry with them.

The overall impression and basic information:

Interviews were conducted with 15 refugees who are originally from Syria and Afghanistan (including 2 interviews not fully carried out because the two refugees rushed to the bus going to Kanjiza). Mostly they came to the park that day or during the previous night and most had a traumatic experience on the border between Greece and Macedonia where they were held back for several days by the Macedonian Border Police. All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany and the Netherlands, they do not want to stay in Serbia. Age structure of interviewed refugees varied, ranging from 20 to 60 years. Many of them travel with family, wife and children, but there are also single people as well as those whose families were separated. All respondents were male of Islamic religion. The educational structure is diverse, from university-educated people to those with secondary or primary school. Most of them are not informed about the procedure of the asylum system in Serbia, the possibilities for accommodation in centers for asylum, but it must be said that they are not much interested in the possibility of seeking asylum in the Republic of Serbia. Most did not receive any kind of help, some report that they received assistance in the form of food and water in the transit countries. One respondent received medical care in Presevo, due to mild health problems. Only three people have expressed their intention for the asylum in Serbia and have registered in Presevo, or at the border, all the others interviewed

expressed no intention for asylum in the Republic of Serbia, ie are not registered. We informed most of the surveyed refugees about the open Info Centre in Nemanjina 3. Also one respondent was taken to a Mikser House in order to get something of concrete assistance.

Vulnerable groups:

Among the surveyed refugees there are victims of torture with torture mostly experienced in the country of origin, and the majority of the surveyed refugees have traumatic experiences that they experienced in transit. Many of them, boat trip from Turkey to Greece perceive as the most traumatic experience in life, because those boats are small and unstable and there is a possibility to sink. Many have lost their identity documents while traveling by boat. Most had experience of inhuman treatment by Macedonian border police, some of them were injured. Out of 15 respondents five of them had experience of torture in their country of origin, Syria or Afghanistan. Mainly the perpetrators were members of the regime's military or police, one Syrian experienced repeatedly whipping by members of the Islamic state, as a punishment for consumption and sale of tobacco. Repression and fear of kidnapping and torture are reported by almost all refugees with whom conversation took place.

Health problems that are reported are mostly individual acute health problems such as fatigue, aching legs, and most did not receive any medical assistance in Serbia.

People look very tired and exhausted, seeking nothing and only wish them to continue their journey. The majority of respondents hold a grudge against the events at the borders and the way they were treated.

The problem with the police:

Three refugees had a bad experience, (a few of them testified that they had heard from others for the same problem) in a police station in Savska in Belgrade. They tried to register but were returned and told to come the next day. The next day the same thing happened. Also, many are confused about the form they received on the border to fill, and they reported that they had to pay for it even it was not registration form. They do not understand what is that form. Presevo was so crowded that they could not register.

28.08.2015. – Kanjiza and Subotica

The overall impression and basic information:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) visited shelter in Kanjiza and informal gathering place for refugees in Subotica (the old brickyard), accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. In shelter in Kanjiza, there was about 200 refugees at the moment of our visit, and number of families. The shelter is relatively clean with drinking water available. All respondents stated that they are satisfied with the conditions at the shelter. During our visit, members of Serbian Red cross were present with assistance packages. In the old brick factory in Subotica, interviews took place in front of it. There was much more refugees from Afghanistan, and less those who speak Arabic. Showers are places in front of the old brickyard.

Interviews were conducted with 14 refugees who are originally from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan (9 interviews in Kanjiža, 6 in brickyard). Age structure of interviewed refugees aged 16 to 49 years. The general impression, with regard to the age distribution of refugees, is that there are all age categories from under-age children to elderly people who are over 70 years old. Whole families are traveling with children often babies, but there are those whose families were separated, or who are traveling alone, and they are hoping for family reunion when they reach their intended destinations. Most of the respondents were men, the conversation was held with two women. Women generally travel with their husbands or accompanied by some males, mainly on conversation agree male family members. One female respondent was traveling alone. All respondents are Muslim religion. The educational structure is varied, ranging from students and university graduates to those with primary education.

Almost all interviewed were registered with the police, and thus expressed their intention for asylum, unlike the situation in the field in parks in Belgrade, where in most cases interviewed refugees are not registered. The impression is that the refugees in a shelter are better informed and aware of their rights and obligations than those who are staying in a completely informal gathering places. Also unlike those who live in a completely informal gathering places, many have received some support from various humanitarian organizations in

the Republic of Serbia and in other transit countries. Receiving any kind of assistance is easier in formal places of residence. All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, etc. Mostly all have relatives or friends in one of the countries of the European Union. On the way to Serbia mainly travel through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia, but some came through Bulgaria. One respondent reported that he entered into Bulgaria and that was returned back to Turkey by the Bulgarian police, who beat him up and took away all his things, and thus he lost his documents. Again he crossed from Turkey to Greece and via Macedonia came to Serbia. Afghan refugees on their way to Serbia passed through Iran, Turkey, Greece and Macedonia.

Vulnerable groups:

The interview was conducted with an underage boy from Afghanistan who travels alone without parental accompaniment. He was informed about the asylum system in our country, and he says he received legal assistance / information in each transit country, from Iran to the Republic of Serbia. He asked us not to report that he is a minor, because it would jeopardize his journey. He wants to get to Germany, where he has relatives.

Among the surveyed refugees there are victims of torture who experience torture generally in their country of origin, and the majority of the surveyed refugees have traumatic experiences that they experienced in transit. Most of the refugees seen boat trip from Turkey to Greece as a very traumatic experience, because the ships which transport them are small and unstable. Many have lost all things on the boat including personal documents. Out of 15 interviewed refugees, seven claimed to have experienced torture in the country of origin (Syria and Iraq). One respondent was also a political prisoner during the Saddam regime, when he spent a year in prison and survived severe forms of physical and psychological abuse. Mostly the perpetrators were members of the regime's army or the police, and members of Isis, and other fractions operating in Iraq. Repression and fear of kidnapping and torture are reported by almost all refugees from Syria that the interview was conducted with. Many reported the threats they received, often via text messages to kill them. These are often direct reasons for the departure from the country of origin.

Health problems that are reported are mostly individual acute health problems, and many received medical assistance in the Republic of Serbia, even in brickyard in Subotica. Some are in need of specific health care. The woman interviewed has gynecological health problems. Also, one respondent had health problems as a result of the injury. Many have close family members who were killed or injured in the war, parents, brothers, sisters but also children. These are the worst traumas they are faced with. All are emotionally disturbed, in fear how would they enter Hungary and pass on to their country of refuge. They are tired and exhausted, and only wish them to continue their journey.

02-03.09.2015. – Preševo (One stop centre) and Miratovac (refugee camp)

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinovic (demgraf), Ana Jovanovic Jankovic (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist), accompanied by a translator of Arabic language, made two-days visit to the One stop centre (shelter) in Presevo and refugee camp in Miratovac.

One stop centre in Presevo - 02.09.2015.

The overall impression:

According to the information we received from the representatives of the Commissioner, on the first day of the visit, in front of and inside the Center in Presevo there were about 1000 refugees, among them a large number of families with small children. About 600 refugees were in the Centre, while others were waiting to be admitted to the Centre. In our opinion, in the Centre there was a lot more beneficiaries than the aforementioned.

The center is closed type, the police controls the entry and exit from the Centre. Representatives of the Commissioner for Refugees and Migration welcomed us and escorted through the Center and explained the procedure of entry and exit from the Centre. They explained to us that the Centre is under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner along with other representatives of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Issues.

According to the obtained information, at the entrance to the Centre beneficiaries are getting a card with a number for their turn to go to the

representatives of the Ministry of Interior for registration. Beneficiaries also receive Red Cross card for getting food, if they meet the requirements (cards are distributed to families with children, women, younger than 18 and older than 70 years, while men 18-70 years do not receive the card).

Priority upon entering the Centre is given to families and women with small children. According to the information we received from the representatives of the Commissioner, in practice there are situations when priority rule is not respected. According to the information we received from the Commissioner, in practice there are situations when it does not respect the rule priority, given that some of the men are lined up for hours and often families do not want to separate.

When their number reaches the line, they first receive a questionnaire of the Border Police to fill with their personal information, which is later used by the official of the Ministry of Interior to facilitate the issuance of a certificate of registration and expressed intention to seek asylum. The next step is determining the identity, photographing, taking fingerprints and personal data, after which the certificate is issued, and the refugees are pointed out to leave the Centre.

At the time of the visit, the conditions in the Centre are very poor. Centre capacity is insufficient for the number of beneficiaries. In addition to the tents set up, there are plenty of smaller tents that refugees carry with them. People were everywhere, lying, sitting on the ground. Hygienic conditions are very disturbing, placed mobile toilets are in very poor hygienic condition. There is a tank next to the toilets with running, drinking water, although many refugees with whom the interview took place did not know that the water from the tank is drinkable and have complained that they are thirsty. There is large number of those who got food first and last time when they entered the Centre, and it is, according to them, two and a half days ago. Some claim to be in the center for three days and that they were not permitted to leave until after the registration with the police. A doctor is present at the Centre each day, in two shifts, although many of the refugees with whom the interview was conducted did not know that they can get medical help at the Centre. The Red Cross is also constantly present with a container that contains food, water and basic pharmaceuticals and hygiene

products, but most of the refugees with whom the interview was conducted did not know that they will get only one package of food when they enter the Centre. There has been a lot of discontent among the refugees. Mostly they are dissatisfied with the conditions, length of the procedure and inability to get out of the Centre.

Mainly they all complained about the insufficient amount of food. UNHCR representatives with whom we spoke said that it was necessary to determine who is entitled to those packets, since there is not enough for all, but also that if need for more food is noticed they always give them.

In building inside the Centre, on the top floor, there is a room of about 60m² with beds that are provided for use during the night for mothers with small children, while their husbands / fathers are denied access. The hygienic conditions of this room are relatively satisfactory, with 26 bunk beds and as we were told in one bed mother with her children are sleeping.

One stop centre in Presevo – 03.09.2015.

The overall impression:

On the second day of the visit, in the Centre there was about 100 refugees, among them a large number of families with small children. The hygienic conditions in the center, at the time of the visit, are noticeably better than the previous day. According to the information received, the night before, after a large number of refugees released, they were able to clean the center, as they say when there are about 1000 it is almost impossible to do that. On the other hand, we were informed that for that day was announced the visit of Ministers Vulin and Stefanovic to the Centre. One of the tents was altered into children's corner, with a large number of toys. It is noticeable cleaner than the previous day, and the restrooms are cleaned. We have not found any of the persons with whom we have done the interview the day before.

During the interview with a family, we found one child of 9 years with only one (right) sneaker, and we asked those present colleagues from UNICEF to give him some shoes, which was done. To our question whether they normally provide shoes, they said it is not the practice because they do not have enough to give to everyone, but they do give when they see the need. We also received

information from the Red Cross that they have footwear too, but they are also not distributing it because they do not have proper paperwork for it.

We've received information from adult men, that some of them are in the Centre for a day and a half, and that they did not get any food. Even during the second visit, the refugees with whom the interview was conducted generally were not informed that in the Centre they can get medical help, that they are only entitled to one package of food, as well as how long they would stay in a Centre, and that they will not be able to leave until they finish with their registration in the police. Great dissatisfaction with living conditions in the Centre is noticeable.

Miratovac – 03.09.2015.

The overall impression:

In Miratovac there is organized the first reception of refugees coming from Macedonia, which is under the control of the border police. Train Station, where the train with the refugees stops from Macedonia is about 200 meters from the first reception point. There is set a number of large tents and container where doctors provide medical assistance. Refugees can get drinking water, although the water is placed in the sun and it is probably not possible to drink.

At the time of the visit there were about 50 refugees, and we were informed that half an hour before our arrival 450-500 refugees were sent from Miratovac to Presevo. During the visit, around 200 refugees arrived. The refugees stay in Miratovac on average about two hours. They let them in larger groups, in column to Presevo. It is necessary to cross about 2 kilometers on foot to reach a bus which transports them to the One step Center in Presevo. Priority is given to women with children. Other go either on foot to the One stop Centre, which is at a distance of 10 kilometers, either pay taxes. There are also UNHCR vehicles used in emergencies, and for the transport of small children.

At the time we were there, there were the two doctors and two members of the medical staff, giving refugees all medical assistance they could. Upon completion of examinations, some of the medical staff came out of the container and on English call all those who have health problems to come, because they do not have an interpreter.

Basic data on refugees (based on interviews)

During this two-day visit, 27 individual interviews were conducted, with 22 men and 5 women. Most are originally from Syria, but there are those from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan. The age structure of respondents varies from 18 to 40 years. The general impression, with regard to the age distribution of refugees in the Centre are present all age categories from under-age children to elderly people. Entire families are traveling with children often babies, pregnant women, but there are those whose families were separated, or traveling alone, so they hope for family reunification when they reach their intended destinations. The majority of respondents are Muslim, only one respondent is a Christian. The educational structure is varied, ranging from students and university graduates to those with primary education.

All interviewed refugees, as well as all currently in the Centre are waiting to undergo the procedure of registration in the police. Among the respondents, there were those who registered on the way to Serbia, usually only in Greece. Most have documents with them, even though there are many of them who do not have or have lost everything including their documents on the boat from Turkey to Greece.

All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, etc. Basically they all have relatives or friends in one of the countries of the European Union. On the way to Serbia they mainly passed through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia.

The vulnerable groups

Among refugees in the Centre at the time of the visit there were a lot of families, mothers with small children and pregnant women. The conversation was held with some of them as well. It's hard when they do not have enough food for their children, and they complain about the conditions in which children live. They are particularly dissatisfied with the hygiene of mobile toilets.

Among the surveyed refugees, there is a large number of those who have had experience of torture, mostly in their countries of origin. How the most of refugees are from Syria, these experiences are most linked to Syria. Kidnappings for ransom, heavy and cruel physical and psychological abuse are frequent. The

most common alleged perpetrators were members of the army / police / intelligence services of the Assad regime.

There is smaller number of those who complain of cases of torture in the transit countries. In the countries of transit, particularly in Macedonia, it happens that the police used excessive force to them in order to place them in the trains for Serbia. Among the major traumatic experience, most of them stated boat trips from Turkey to Greece, because those boats which transport them are small and it often happens to sink. Many have lost all things and personal documents on those boats.

Although individual interview was conducted with 27 refugees, many of them approached us in groups and sought information and answers to many questions that concern them. They wanted to know why they were so long in the Centre, and how long are they going to stay. Dissatisfaction was great, especially the conditions in which they reside as well as unhygienic. People were very scared, upset, tired, and some hungry. The only their wish is to get the document from the police and to continue on their way.

11.09.2015. – Belgrade

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojane Trivunčić (psychologist) visited parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. There is a large number of refugees around the main bus station, about 250 of them, but it is noticeably lower than in the previous visit. The visit was in the afternoon and evening hours, and a large number of refugees had already left or were preparing to travel farther by evening buses. Also, the past few days was cold weather and a large number of them sought shelter from the rain.

The overall impression and basic information:

The park is in terms of hygiene in decent condition, during the visit there was a City Maintenance who cleaned the park. There are tents where people can leave clothes or other help for refugees. All over the park, the wardrobe which was brought by citizens, was noticeable. Individual citizens are coming and offering

various forms of assistance, most clothes to refugees. Students of the University of Belgrade, Libyans, organized themselves on their own initiative in providing aid in food, which they provide every Friday of the week. In the park were also Swedes who have on their own initiative organized themselves and had brought two trucks of aid they plan to distribute at the border with Hungary.

Interviews were conducted with 10 refugees who are originally from Syria and Afghanistan. They all came to Serbia, passing through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. Afghan refugees have passed also through Iran on their way to Serbia. All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany. Age structure of interviewed refugees is varied, ranging from 25 to over 60 years. Many of them travel with family, wife and children, and there are pregnant women. There are also many single persons and those whose families were separated. All respondents were men of Muslim faith. The educational structure is also varied, with college-educated people and those with secondary or primary school. Most of the surveyed refugees did not register in Serbia, only one person was registered in the Centre in Presevo. Many received only form from the border police on the basis of which they could buy a ticket to Belgrade. Assistance they received was mainly in the form of food and clothes.

Vulnerable groups:

Among the surveyed refugees there are torture victims, mostly experienced torture in the country of origin in Syria. Torture occurred in places of detention where they were taken after their arrest by the military, police or intelligence services of the Assad regime. The methods of torture practiced are brutal and include heavy beatings, electric shocks, various types of suspensions.

The biggest traumatic experiences in transit are related to travel by boat from Turkey to Greece. Many reported the experience of inhuman treatment by the border police of Macedonia. Some were forced to wait for registration in Greece very long, up to seven days.

Health problems that are reported are mostly individual acute health problems such as fatigue, aching legs, and most did not receive any medical assistance in Serbia.

People are very tired, exhausted, traumatized. Some are reacted nervously to the sound of the planes that flew over due to military exercises that took place in Belgrade. They do not look for anything and only wish them to continue their journey.

17.9.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) made a visit in the afternoon hours to parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. There is a large number of refugees around the main bus station, about 400 of them. According to the information received, unlike previous visits, the refugees now remain in that part for just a few hours, and continue their way or to Hungary or to Croatia.

The park is in terms of hygiene in decent condition. During the visit, colleagues from UNICEF were present, as well as an ambulance with a team of medical experts who provided first aid to the refugees who are located in these parks. Citizens have approached us to ask us where they can leave the various types of assistance, mostly clothes for refugees.

Interviews were conducted with 11 refugees who are originally from Syria and Iraq. Some came to Serbia through Macedonia, and others through Bulgaria. All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany, Sweden or Finland. The age structure of the interviewed refugees is varied, ranging from 18 to 40 years. Many of them travel with family, wife and children, and there are a lot of pregnant women. There are also many single persons and those whose families were separated. All respondents were men, mostly of Muslim faith. The interview was conducted with two refugees who are Yazidis. The educational structure is also varied, with college-educated people and those with secondary or primary school. Most of the respondents are registered in Serbia, some in Presevo, and some on the eastern border (Bosilegrad and Zajecar). Assistance they received was mainly in the form of food and clothes, and they all said that in Serbia they were treated by citizens

and representatives of the Ministry of Interior, as opposed to the police in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, with which many had problems.

Vulnerable groups:

Among the surveyed refugees there victims of torture who experienced torture and inhuman treatment mainly in the transit countries, in Bulgaria and during the boat crossing from Turkey to Greece. Torture occurred in places of detention where they were taken after their arrest by the police or commandos. Methods of torture were, as they said, brutal, including drilling of boats and tanks for gasoline, followed by the allegations to rescue them, but in fact transported them to places of detention in which some were held for 20 days (two of them). In Turkey, they were released after they paid 25EUR, when they took all their documents, personal and travel, and issued them only a confirmation that they are registered. Some refugees from Iraq to Turkey represented themselves as Syrians, to receive a better treatment in Turkey.

Biggest traumatic experiences in transit are related to travel through Bulgaria (those who came to Serbia through Bulgaria) and boat trip from Turkey to Greece (those who came to Serbia through Macedonia).

Most did not receive any medical assistance in Serbia, but do not even report to have any health problems.

People are very tired, exhausted, traumatized. They do not seek for anything and only wish to continue their journey.

29.09.2015. – Border crossing – Batrovci, Šid, Berkasovo One stop centre – Principovac

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinovic (demgraf), Ana Jovanovic Jankovic (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) accompanied by a translator of Arabic language, made hole day visit to informal gathering places for refugees in Serbia-Croatia border: Batrovci, Sid, Berkasovo and One stop centre Principovac.

Border crossing Batrovci:

On the border crossing point we did not meet any refugee. According to information received from members of the Ministry of interior / border police, as well as from local population, on that crossing point there are no any refugee crossings.

Border crossing Sid:

On the border crossing point we did not meet any refugee. According to information received from members of the Ministry of interior / border police, as well as from members of the Commissioner for refugees and migrations, on that crossing point, very small number of refugees cross to Croatia on a daily basis. They are usually transported by taxi drivers, who leave them about 500 meters from the border, from where they cross on their own.

Border crossing Berkasovo – informal border crossing:

Berkasovo/Bapska in informal gathering place for refugees on the Serbia/Croatia border. Members of Red cross, UNHCR, as well as young volunteers from Czech republic are present, and they are serving refugees with warm tea, and helping refugees in continuation of their way to Croatia. On the other side of the „border“, Croatian mini buses or regular buses are awaiting them, depending on the need and capacity.

During the time of our visit, 3 buses from Presevo arrived, with about 150 refugees. We have been told that they have been treated very badly in Presevo, but not only in Serbia, but also in other countries before Serbia. Mostly, they are complaining about trains through Macedonia, because of, as they stated, they were crowded, and they had to stand for more than 7 hours. Transport from Turkey to Greece by boat is the most traumatic experience. One of the respondents stated that he was in prison in his home land, for false report that he participated in demonstrations.

All of them are visibly tired, scared and cold. What they need most is something warm to drink and eat, as well as raincoats and bags.

One stop centre Principovac:

Representatives of Commissioner for refugees and migrations welcomed us and gave us a tour around the centre. They told us that few refugees came to centre previous night by taxi, and left in the morning. When a group of refugees comes

to the centre, they inform Red cross and local doctor and they come to bring and provide help to refugees. According to the information received, a doctor is present every day, sometimes doctor from the local community Health Centre, and sometimes colleagues from IAN (International Aid Network) with their medical team which includes psychologist.

In the time of the visit, the conditions in the centre are well. The capacity of the centre is up to 250. The centre is closed type. There is a large number of beds and beddings. The water in the centre is not drinkable. In the present time, there is no heating in the centre, but as we understood, the centre has its own boiler room that is in a reparation, and hopefully it will be ready for use soon. The priority in the entry to the centre is given to families and woman with children. Families and woman with children are placed in separated rooms, and single man in the hall with the folding cots.

In front of the centre, in the yard, there are few tents which were donated from the Red cross, and which have ground with 2-3 folding cots inside. In the moment of the visit those tents were not in use, because of the bad weather conditions.

On the day of the visit, only one bus with refugees came (about 69 of them). Even the capacity is much larger, usually there is one or two buses with refugees per day, other buses are directed to informal gathering place Berkasovo/Bapska. Refugees are staying for a few hours, and then they are being transported to Berkasovo/Bapska.

Basic information regarding refugees (based on the interviews)

During this visit, a total of 24 interviews were conducted, with 22 men and 2 women. Most of them are from Syria, but there are those from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan. Age structure varies, from 17 to 58 years. General impression is that there are all age categories, but younger generations are the majority. There are entire families with children and often babies, pregnant women, but there are those whose families were separated on their way, and they are hoping for family reunion. Most of respondents are muslim, only one is christian. Education structure also varies, from students and those with university degree, to those with only elementary school degree.

Some of interviewed refugees registered on their way to Serbia, mostly in Greece and Macedonia. Most of them have their documents with them. Many registered in Presevo, but a lot of them are complaining about waiting for more than 15 hours for the registration.

All respondents wish to continue to Western EU countries, mostly to Germany, Holland, Finland, Sweden, etc. Almost all of them have relatives or friends in those countries. On their way to Serbia, they have mostly passed through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia.

Wounelable groups:

Among refugees that we met in Berkasovo, there were many families with small children. In Principovac we identified some refugees that were torture victims, who experienced torture in their home countries, mostly in Syria and mostly from the members of Assad's regime.

10.10.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demgraf) and Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) made a visit in the morning hours to parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language. There has been a much smaller number of refugees present, about 40. According to the information received, the refugees now remain in that part for just a few hours, and continue their way or to Hungary or to Croatia.

The park is in terms of hygiene in decent condition. Since the visit took place on Saturday, from organizations present or institutions that would provide assistance to the refugees, only one ambulance with a team of medical experts, who provided first aid to the refugees around parks, were present.

Interviews were conducted with 7 of refugees, some of whom were Kurds from Syria, and the others were from Afghanistan. All interviewed refugees came to Serbia via Turkey and Bulgaria, and want to continue their way to Western Europe, to Germany. The age structure of the interviewed refugees is from 17 to 35 years. Majority of them is traveling without families, some families have

remained in their homeland, and some families are already in the country of refuge. All interviewees are men of Muslim faith. The educational structure is diverse, there are people with secondary and primary education, as well as people with no education. Most of the surveyed refugees are registered in Serbia, on the eastern border (Bosilegrad and Pirot). Assistance they received was mainly in the form of food and clothes, and they all stated that in Serbia everyone acted very nicely, including representatives of the Ministry of Interior, as opposed to the police in Bulgaria, where many of refugees had problems.

Vulnerable groups:

Among the surveyed refugees there are victims of torture who experienced torture and inhuman treatment mainly in Bulgaria. According to the information received, torture was carried out by Bulgarian police, who arrested them, took their money and mobile phones, and have released them only after they promised not to go to Germany.

Most did not receive any medical assistance in Serbia, but do not even report to have any health problems.

People are very tired, exhausted, traumatized. They do not seek for anything and only wish to continue their journey.

16.10.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojane Trivunčić (psychologist) visited parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Arabic language.

A much smaller number of refugees is noticeable, about 30, all from Afghanistan.

In the park between the incoming and outgoing bus station platforms there are no refugees, now they are all moved to the park in front of the Faculty of Economics. On the other hand, the container of the Red Cross and the Information Desk are still in the park between platforms.

Refugees can receive first medical aid, in one ambulance located nearby.

The park is in decent condition in terms of hygiene.

There has been a lesser numbers of women and children.

During this visit, not a single survey was completed, as among the present refugees we did not find anyone who speaks neither Arabic nor English. For future visits to informal gathering places of refugees in Belgrade, we will organize an interpreter for the Farsi language.

21.10.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to parks around the main bus station in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. There has been a much smaller number of refugees present, about 30. They are all younger males, all from Afghanistan. There were no refugees in the park closer to bus station, just in the park near Faculty of economy.

The park is in terms of hygiene in decent condition. Grassy areas are cleaned up, there are no tents in the park. The majority of interviewed refugees said that they are sleeping in the refugee camp Krnjaca, but they come in the park during the day. We informed them about their rights while they are in the camp, and whom to address in case of violation of their rights. Based on their story, Bulgarian police took away their money and phones so they are now without money and cannot continue with their journey.

Interviews were conducted with 11 of refugees, all from Afghanistan. Majority of interviewed refugees came to Serbia via Turkey and Bulgaria, and they are registered in Serbia, on the eastern border, in Pirot. They all want to continue their journey to Western Europe, to Germany. The age structure of the interviewed refugees is from 17 to 60 years old. They are all males, Muslims, and they are Uzbeks, Tajiks and Pashtuns. Majority of them are traveling without family members, just one interviewed refugee travels with his wife and young son. His boy has health problems and needs hospitalization (he has health

problems with stomach and he was operated in Afghanistan) but they want to continue with their trip. Boy received medical aid in Serbia, and doctors referred him to the hospital, but they didn't want to go.

Assistance that interviewed refugees received was mainly in the form of food and clothes, and they all stated that in Serbia everyone acted very nicely, including representatives of the Ministry of Interior. Many of them received medical aid too, and they are very satisfied with all assistance that they got.

Vulnerable groups:

Among 11 surveyed refugees 9 are victims of torture. Some of them survived torture in Afghanistan and the perpetrators were Taliban or members of ISIS army. The majority of refugees that came in Serbia through Bulgaria experienced torture by Bulgarian police. Many of refugees were in prison in Bulgaria, for illegal entry in the country. Some of them were imprisoned for two months. They all claim that they were beaten and maltreated in the prison. Some of them said that police officers beat them every night with nightsticks. They claim that minors are in prison too. One man asked for help for his cousin, who is 16 and is in prison in Bulgaria. Man gave us cousin's name and name and phone of translator who is in contact with the boy. Man is very worried and he is afraid what is going to happen with his cousin.

The name of the boy, who is in prison in Bulgaria: Rafiollah Habib. His father name is: Zarhabib

Contact information of translator: AimalHaidar Han, Bulgaria Ruse, Opalchenska 10 street, block 308a, floor 3 ap 9, 00359885311280

All interviewed refugees are tired, exhausted, traumatized. They don't ask for anything, they just want to continue with their trip.

30-31.10.2015– Preševo (One stop centre) and Miratovac (refugee camp)

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist), accompanied by a translators of

Farsi and Arabic languages, made a two-days visit to the One stop centre (shelter) in Presevo and refugee camp in Miratovac.

One stop centre in Presevo - 30.10.2015.

The overall impression:

According to the information we received from the representatives of the Commissioner and the Ministry of Interior, the day before our visit in front of the center as well as in the center there was a much larger number of refugees than on the day of our visit. During the visit there were about 100 refugees in the center, while in front of the center were about 300 refugees. Among them was large number of families with small children.

The reception center is still surrounded by the police that controls the entry and exit from the center. Upon entering the center, those who are entitled to the help of the Red Cross, receive coupons (women, children and the elderly). Those who have travel documents can immediately access the registration procedure, while those who do not have documents have to wait in line to fill out border police questionnaire, and only then can access the registration procedure. The priority to entering the center, and to go directly to the registration is given to the families or women with small children, pregnant women and people with disabilities.

There are more members of the Ministry of Interior, a bigger number of computer equipment, and the registration procedure (procedure of expressing the intention of seeking asylum) itself takes place much faster than during our previous visit. We noticed that they are leaving the center within about 30 minutes from the moment of entry into the center.

There is a large number of buses that transport refugees, who have expressed their intention to seek asylum, from Presevo to Sid. According to information we have received, unlike earlier, when the ticket was around 35 euros, now bus ticket to Sid is between 25 and 30 EUR, and it is mandatory to issue a fiscal receipt.

At the time of the visit, the conditions in the Centre are satisfactory. The number of tents, which were empty at the time of the visit, but were prepared for the upcoming cold period. The hygienic conditions are much better than during our

previous visit. There is bigger number of mobile toilets, as well as two tents in which pregnant women and mothers with small children can spend some time to rest, children to play, and to change baby clothes.

A doctor is present in the center, although many of the refugees with whom the conversation took place did not know that they can get medical assistance in the center, although most do not even complain about the state of health. One mother who complained that her child is sick, we took to the doctor who immediately gave her medical treatment. We noticed a pregnant woman lying on the ground, and we carried her through the line in the process of expression her intent to seek asylum. The Red Cross was also constantly present in a container with food, water and basic pharmaceuticals and hygiene products.

The refugees seem to be very tired and upset. They used the opportunity to receive from us as much information as possible, with regard to their stay in the center, their rights while residing in Serbia, but also in relation to their onward journey to their country of refuge. Most are worried about fingerprinting, as well as information about the possibility of readmission to Serbia.

One stop centre in Presevo - 31.10.2015.

The overall impression:

On the second day of the visit, in the reception center was about 150 refugees, while in front of the center was about 600 refugees, among them a large number of families with small children.

Refugees with whom the conversation took place, were generally not informed that in a shelter they can get medical help. According to the information received, they are very pleased with treatment in Serbia, both by local residents, as well as from the representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Commissioner.

Miratovac (refugee camp) – 31.10.2015.

The overall impression:

The first admission of refugees coming from Macedonia is in Miratovac, which is under the control of the border police. Railway station, where the train stops in

Macedonia is about 200 meters away. In Miratovac there are couple of large tents and a container where doctors provide medical assistance.

At the entrance to the camp, counters are installed, and according to the information received, there should be a precise data on the number of persons passing therethrough.

At the time of the visit there were about 30 refugees, and we were informed that half an hour before our arrival, about 400 refugees went from Miratovac to Presevo. During the visit, a further 150 refugees arrived. Refugees do not stay there a long time, except maybe during the night. Representatives from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), are transporting mothers with small children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled to the center of Presevo. Others go on foot for about 2 kilometers, where they wait for the buses that transported them to the Reception Center in Presevo. Priority is given to women with children. Other go either on foot or pay taxes to the Reception Centre, which is at a distance of 10 kilometers. There are also UNHCR vehicles used in emergencies, and for the transport of small children.

As we were informed, IOM transports mothers and children as well as other vulnerable groupes, every day until 5pm. According to information we received, it happens that during the night some families with small children arrive and it would be useful to have the ability to transport the refugees and in the evenings and nights as well.

Basic data on refugees (based on interviews)

During these visits, 31 individual interviews were conducted, with 30 men and 1 woman. They are mostly from Syria and Afghanistan, but there are also those from Iran. The age structure of respondents aged 16 to 40 years. The general impression, with regard to the age distribution of refugees in the center, is that are present all age categories of under-age children to elderly people. Entire families are traveling with children often babies, pregnant women, but there are those whose families were separated, or traveling alone, so they hope for family reunion when they reach their intended destinations. The majority of respondents are Muslim, two respondents are atheists. The educational structure is varied, ranging from students and university graduates to those with primary education.

All interviewed refugees, as well as all currently in the center of Presevo are waiting to undergo the registration process. Among the respondents, there were those who registered on the way to Serbia, mostly in Greece and / or Macedonia. Most do not have documents with them.

All respondents want to continue their way to Western Europe, mainly want to go to Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, etc. On the way to Serbia mainly come through Turkey, Greece and Macedonia.

The vulnerable groups:

Among refugees in the Centre at the time of the visit were a lot of families, mothers with small children and pregnant women.

Among the surveyed refugees, there is a large number of those who have had experience of torture, mostly in transit countries (Iran and Turkey), but there are also those who have experienced cases of torture in their countries of origin. Most participants stated that they have been beaten by police officers in Iran (when it comes to refugees from Afghanistan) as well as in Turkey. Often referred to threats and violence that are experienced by members of the Taliban and Isis.

Although individual interview was conducted with 31 refugee, a large number of them approached the group and asked for information and answers to many questions that concern them. The only wish was to get the document and continue further their way.

08.11.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana JankovićJovanović (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to the park in front of the Faculty of Economy, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. The visit was made on Sunday, morning hours, and there has been a small number of refugees present, about 10. Around noon, there has been about 20 of refugees in the park. Mostly, they are younger males, from Afghanistan.

The interviews were conducted with 9 of them, all from Afghanistan. They are mostly sleeping in the Centre in Krnjaca, and coming to the park during the day. On their way to Serbia, they all came through Bulgaria, and all are registered in Pirot. No one of them wish to stay in Serbia, but they all want to go to some EU countries, such as Germany, Sweden, Norway. The age structure of interviewed refugees is between 17 and 30 years. All of them are of muslim faith, and they are all traveling without their families.

Most of the aid they have been given was in food and clothes. They all stated that in Serbia everyone treated them very nicely, citizens and representatives of the Ministry of Interior. Some of them received medical help in the Centre in Krnjaca, and they are all pleased with the aid received. As we have been told, so far they were not informed about their rights while residing on the territory of Serbia, so we have provided them with all relevant legal information.

Vulnerable groups / victims of torture:

Among the interviewed refugees, 6 of them spent 5 days in house detention/private prison that is held by some mafia. They all stated that they have been beaten, and that they took all of their money and cell phones. They have been released when the main smuggler, who they have paid to be transported, has come. Some of them had visible scratches on their face.

As we were told, no one of them was tortured in their home land, but they all received many threats from Talibans, which was the main reason for almost all of them to leave the home country.

In the park, there were some underage refugees, who are traveling with the group.

10.11.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demgraf), Ana JankovićJovanović (lawyer) and BojanaTrivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to the park in front ofthe Faculty of Economy, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. The visit was made during morning hours, and

there has been a small number of refugees present, about 10. Later, a few more came, but still there were not many of them. All of them are from Afghanistan, and they all came the day before. All of the interviewed refugees registered in Serbia, but did not go to the Centre in Kanjiza.

The interview was conducted with 8 refugees, all from the Afghanistan. Seven of them came through Bulgaria, one came through Macedonia. Mostly all of them wish to proceed to some EU country, but some stated that they would stay in Serbia, but they do not want to live in the Asylum centre. They would like to go to Germany, Sweden, Italy. They are all between 17 and 25 years old, except one who is 46 years old. Those who have families left them in Afghanistan, and are traveling alone.

The aid they have received was mostly in the food and clothes, and they all stated that everybody treated them well in Serbia. Some received medical help in Serbia, but are not satisfied as they received just a few medicines. They need some clothes and shoes. We informed them about the aid they can receive in Miksaliste, and provided all of them with the information about their rights while residing on the territory of Serbia.

Vulnerable groups / victims of torture:

Some of the interviewed who came to Serbia through Bulgaria, stated that they were in prison in Sofia, where they were beaten and they took their cell phones and money. Others told us that they were not in prison, but that Bulgarian police was shooting at them.

No one of them stated they were torture victims in the Afghanistan, but were receiving treats from the Talibans and ISIS.

In the park, there were some underage refugees, who are traveling with the group.

18.11.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf), Ana Jovanović Janković (lawyer) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to park in front of the

Faculty of Economic in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. During the visit, there were not many refugees present in the park, about 30 of them. All respondents are from Afghanistan, and they are all registered with the police, but did not go to the Asylum Centre. Some stated that they were sleeping in the park. All of the interviewed refugees came through Bulgaria. Some did not know through which country they came, as smugglers took them during the night and were not informed about the route. Some went through the woods.

The interviews were conducted with 9 refugees. Mostly they want to continue their trip to some of the EU countries. They would like to go to Germany, or any other EU country where they would be accepted. All interviewed refugees are younger man, traveling with no family.

The aid that they were provided with was mainly in food and clothes, which they have been given in Miksaliste (Belgrade). Some received medical help. As they stated, they do not need legal aid, as they do not want to stay here, and they have already been provided with some basic legal information.

Vulnerable groups / torture victims:

Some of the interviewed refugees who came through Bulgaria claimed to be held in prison in Bulgaria, where they were beaten and taken away all their money and cell phone. Others who also came through Bulgaria, were not in the prison, but they claimed that Bulgarian police let the dogs on them and as they said, some have dog bites.

One group of the interviewed refugees claimed that Serbian police charged them with 20 EURO for the registration paper.

None of the respondents stated to be tortured in the Afghanistan, but they were all receiving threats from Taliban and ISIS.

In the park, we found few minors who were traveling within the group of adults.

25.11.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to park in front of the Faculty of Economic in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. The weather was cold, which resulted in smaller number of present refugees than usual.

The interviews were conducted with 6 refugees from Afghanistan. All of them entered to Serbia through Bulgaria, and they all wish to continue their travel to some western EU countries. Their preferred destinations are Germany, Italy, Belgium... All of the respondents are accommodated in Centre for Asylum in Krnjaca, where they sleep, and coming to this park during the daytime. In Miksaliste they have received some food and clothes, and as they stated everyone treated them well in Serbia. Some mentioned that they have been waiting long hours in Pirot, in front of the police station in order to register, with no clear reason for that. They find the registration procedure very long, and they stated that refugees from Syria finished registration process faster. All respondents are younger males, in their 20s or younger. Most of them are single, and those with families left their family members in Afghanistan. They did not complain on any medical issues. Those who had some medical problems were mostly in the term of colds, and they have received medical help in Centre for Asylum in Krnjaca. They are all traveling with no documents, and most of them registered in Bulgaria. All interviewed refugees are registered in Serbia.

Vulnerable groups / torture victims:

All interviewed refugees experienced some type of ill treatment or torture in Bulgaria, by bulgarian police. Most of them spent 20 or more days in prison in Bulgaria, where they stated to be beaten, and that bulgarian police took their cell phones, money and even clothes. Some of respondents who were not in the prison, claimed to be beaten ny the bulgarian border police, and that were chased by dogs. One refugee was taken back from Bulgaria to Turkey, and than he entered Bulgaria again.

In their home land, most of the interviewed refugees had experience of ill treatment by Talibans and ISIS. They all received life threats, blackmails and life threats for family members. The most vulnerable were those working for the

state army. They all claimed that they had to leave their home country in order to save their lives.

02.12.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to park in front of the Faculty of Economic in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. There are no so many refugees in the park as usual.

The interviews were conducted with 5 refugees from Afghanistan. All of them entered Serbia through Bulgaria, and they all wish to continue their travel to some western EU countries. Their preferred destinations are Germany, Italy, Belgium, etc... Interviewed refugees are not settled in the Centre for Asylum in Krnjaca, some of them slept in the park, some near the Miksaliste House. In Miksaliste they have received some food and clothes, and as they stated everyone treated them well in Serbia. All interviewed refugees are younger males, in their 20s or younger. Most of them are single, and those with families left their family members in Afghanistan. One of them is travelling with 4 children. None of the interviewed refugees complained on any medical issues. Those who had some medical problems were mostly in the term of colds, and they have received medical help. They are all traveling with no documents, and most of them registered in Bulgaria. All interviewed refugees are registered in Serbia.

Vulnerable groups / torture victims:

Three interviewed refugees experienced some type of ill-treatment by Bulgarian police officers. They said that they were in prisons in Pakistan and Iran. As we already heard from others that passed through Bulgaria, these three refugees also said that they were beaten by Bulgarian police, that they stole their money and cell phones.

In their home land, most of the interviewed refugees had experience of ill-treatment by Taliban and ISIS, mostly in the form of threats.

10.12.2015. – Belgrade

The overall impression:

A team composed of Vojislav Đurašinović (demograf) and Bojana Trivunčić (psychologist) made a visit to park in front of the Faculty of Economic in Belgrade, informal gathering place for refugees, accompanied by a translator of Farsi language. There are no so many refugees in the park as usual.

The interviews were conducted with 5 refugees from Afghanistan. All of them entered Serbia through Bulgaria, and they all wish to continue their travel to some western EU countries. Their preferred destinations are Germany, Sweden, Belgium... Some of them are settled in the Centre for Asylum in Krnjaca, some of them came one day before the interviews were conducted. All of them already visited Miksaliste, where they've been provided with food, clothes and shoes. They all stated that everyone treated them well in Serbia. All interviewed refugees are younger males, in their 20s. Most of them are single, others left their family members in Afghanistan. They did not complain on any medical issues. They are all traveling with no documents, and most of them got registered in Bulgaria. All interviewed refugees are registered in Serbia. As they do not want to stay in Serbia, they all stated that they do not need any legal advice, only in their country of refuge they will need some legal aid.

Vulnerable groups / victims of violence/torture victims:

Two interviewed refugees experienced torture by Bulgarian police officers. As we already heard from others that passed through Bulgaria, these two refugees also stated that they were beaten by Bulgarian police, that they stole their money and cell phones.

In their home land, most of the interviewed refugees had experience of violence and threats by Taliban and ISIS.