

solidarnost je naša snaga

Is sharing water with people a criminal offense?

Visits refugees from the Middle East in Subotica and at border crossings with Hungary

June 26th 2016

Activists of Women in Black on June 26th 2016 visited refugees from the Middle East in Subotica and on two border crossings Horgos and Kelebija 2. First, we went to Horgos 2 and there were no refugees there. We went then to Subotica in the camp which was opened by the State.

The camp is located across the street from the old brick factory which was used as the refugees sanctuary. It is off the main road some 500 meters away and can be reached by gravel road and there is very little vegetation so it is very hot and a lot of dust. Under a tree sat a family with three children, and several young men. Here we stopped. We spoke with them, they said that they are from Syria and that they are waiting to cross into Hungary. They were visibly tired and quite dusty. One young man was from Aleppo and he told us that he travel for a couple of months already.

Mirko went on foot to the fence of the camp which was located 300 meters from the place where these people were. Soon and people from the camp began to arrive. There were a lot of women with children. We brought a lot of water and fruits.

The crowd was made around our car and I did not even notice that some men came. Only when they approach me, I realized that they are employees of the Commissariat for refugees of Republic of Serbia. They asked who I was and what I'm doing here and they said that I need a permission to bring aid. The first question was "why and for what reason we are giving aid?!?". I completely naive replied that I was just a citizen who wants to help people who fled from the war and I did not know that i should ask for permission?!? We know from before that the employees of the Commissariat for Refugees are very aggressive and they are calling police if someone enters the camp without their permission. Please note that we were 300 meters from the camp, on the road, so that they had no right to ask us anything. They accepted my explanation, but third guy appeared and was very aggressive, he wrote our license plate number and constantly asked from which organizations we are. Mirko was wearing a shirt with the inscription "solidarity with the refugees", that was a "proof" for him that we are from some organization, so he kept asking who we are and why are we here... At the same time he completely ignored the taxi driver who came here for people to transfer them to the place where they illegally cross the border of Serbia and stationed themselves on the no-man's-land between Serbia and Hungary. Here they are waiting to be let in Hungary. Hungarians let 10-15 people a day.

We decided to cross the border to see how it looks. In the no man's land, camp is located. A hundred small tents are placed close to each other. There refugees are waiting... Around them was erected barbed wire, as in the concentration camps... We have not stayed because we were told that we could have serious problems with the police in Serbia.



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