

# solidarnost je naša snaga

## Peace and hope march

### *Hunger strike of refugees in Horgoš*

July 26th and 27th 2016.

On July 26th along with Sara, Magdalena, Natasha (No Borders) and Nhandan (Italy) I was at the Horgoš border crossing to show solidarity with a group of some 140 refugees who on Saturday walked in "March of Hope" from Belgrade to the Hungarian border.

At the border crossing between Serbia and Hungary, we arrived around 11.p.m.

As soon as we reached the field, we have witnessed dramatic scenes of people who are from the deepest despair decided to radically draw attention to the difficult situation in which the refugees currently are.

The refugees on hunger strike are of different ethnic groups, mostly coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan. They told us that the goal of their protest is not directed only to themselves, but that in this way they want to draw attention to the situation in which all the refugees fleeing the war are.

The protesters believe that their act is non-violent, they are also aware that this problem does not concern only Hungary and Serbia, but this is a global problem of the whole of Europe and they won't give up the strike until their demands are met.

They refused to stay in a tent, as well as to receive food from humanitarian organizations. They, due to a protest, put all the food in one pile.

The only protection from the sun and rain are red hats and blankets they get from humanitarian organizations during the march.

We witnessed horrible conditions on place where they are located. Some were sitting on blankets in groups, others are dried clothes on a burning fire while some wrapped in blankets, walked across the field in the open sky surrounded by mist and trees. Despite all they show us kindness and hospitality as if we have their guests.

While we were there, four people collapsed from exhaustion, they were hospitalized, but subsequently returned determined to continue the strike, except for one person who stayed in hospital because of heart problems.

We brought them five barrels of water and electrolytes (bags whose composition contains minerals and salts necessary for the functioning of the human body, a kind of infusion) and explained to them that a content of the bag dissolves in half a liter bottle of water and to drink a little bit on teaspoon every few minutes, we also brought them chargers for mobile phones.

Not far from them was a makeshift camp where there were other refugees who are waiting for two months in the hope that they might be able to cross the border.

Strikers on the field were guarded by a group of ten police officers with a police van and three police cars.

After an hour of our stay, the police spotted us, came and asked for our IDs.

They told us to leave the area, because it is a border area and we don't have permission to be there. We have been escorted by the police.



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Tomorrow (July 27th), we came back to Horgoš, but this time we couldn't come close, due to increased police checks, that were visibly increased at Horgoš.

We hid in the forest near the field where they were located and the over a phone agreed to meet with several strikers. We gave them pack o 0,5L bottles of water and a bag of electrolytes.

They told us that after our departure last night, police came to them and warn them on us, police said that refugees should stay away from us, because we are dangerous. This is nothing new. For police officers and the regime which they serve, international solidarity is a crime.

We were told that during the day more people collapsed and were hospitalized, but more people joined the strike joined during the day.

Also some journalist came.

Refugees await the arrival of Hungarian officials who will negotiate with them during the day tomorrow.

*Zabeležio: Goran Lazin  
July 29th 2016, Women in Black*