

solidarnost je naša snaga

Visiting Reception Center for war refugees in Preševo

December 21st 2015

Upon arriving in Presevo, in front of the reception center for refugees, we met with Milena Dimitrijevic and her colleague from "Atina" NGO. There was a notable absence of refugees. From a friends from "Atina" we heard that on that day until to 2 p.m., 170 refugees have passed and it is so because for several days bad weather is at sea between Turkey and Greece, so it significantly reduced the number of refugees. In recent days there was an average of about 1,000 reffugees per day. We were not allowed to enter the center, not even to take the help we brought (fruit, gloves, hats) to Remar's tent, which is located within the center. Remar's volunteers went out to retrieve help, they were very grateful.

Then we went to the train station Presevo, which is located some 100m from the entrance of the center. There we saw a few dozen refugees who had been waiting for a train, which departs at midnight to Šid. There are two trains per day for Šid, one in the morning and the other in the evening. Ticket price is 15 euros. Price for a bus is 35 euros. Train opting those who have less money, as well as those who have no money, because after persuasion of ticket checker it is possible to board without a ticket. Part of refugees were outside, sitting and warming around the fire, while the second part was in the room where the ticket office is. It is a small room, about 20m², women and children were there. What was new in comparison to the previous period, a significantly larger number of women and especially children. Friends from the "Atina" told us that it is so for several days and that according to their estimates, 60% of all refugees now are children.

What is needed most refugees is warm clothes, especially shawls, hats and gloves, because these items of clothing are not part of their usual clothes, and in very cold weather, that are not used very they need. Also need food, mainly fruits and anything smaller, it would be convenient for them to take on a grueling journey to Sid, who can take in the case of those who go by train and 10 hours.

Reported by: Violeta Đikanović i Mirko Medenica

