

# solidarnost je naša snaga

## Solidarity with Refugees / Migrants in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

November 2018

The first large group of refugees arrived in Tuzla on June 21st, 2018, from the direction of Sapna, 120 of them arrived in Tuzla. Later on, every day, new groups arrived, each day counting from 5 to 150 people.

All refugees who come to Tuzla are coming from Serbia, and countries of their origin are Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Myanmar, India, Palestine, Bangladesh, Sudan.

My refugee-related activism began with the arrival of the first groups.

Although officially I am not a member of any organization or association, with my own resources, I purchased food and water for them from the very beginning. Every day after working hours, since 16:00, I went to the train station and helping refugees.

Everyone was trying to leave either to Sarajevo or Bihac and Velika Kladusa from where they wanted to continue their journey to European countries. My help was to give them food, water, information.

Most of them were younger men who did not want to be militarized and who were fleeing war, death, poverty and torture.

In Tuzla, neither a government nor a non-governmental organization nor any other institution took over the care of this people.

All the levels of government have been ignored my appeals. I managed to organize a meeting with the city authorities, but the conclusion was that they were not in charge.

Citizens ignored the problem.

The media did not pay special attention, and they regularly contributed to the spread of racism and phobia towards refugees.

My experiences with refugees are indescribable. In five months of being active, I did not even have the slightest inconvenience. I testified they are being openly discriminated and their fundamental human rights violated.

Refugees have always been dignified.

When they sleep in Tuzla they sleep on the streets under the clear sky.

A large number of refugees with whom I am in contact are in Bihac, and they are telling me that a terrible crime is happening there. Without enough food, water, frozen and dispossessed, they are trapped in Bihac.



They complain about the local Red Cross and the local police who humiliate them and violate their rights.

What everyone repeats and what they point out is the brutality of the Croatian border police who beat them, robbers them and then push back to Bosnia again.

In the first days of November, the number of arrivals has been reduced, and there are also cases of returning to Serbia from Bihac and Sarajevo.

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