

HELSINKI COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



The situation at the border crossings Gevgelija and Kumanovo

Period: 01.12.2017– 31.12.2017

Gevgelija

Over the course of December 2017 the situation in the camp remained relatively unchanged compared to the previous month. The number of refugees was relatively low, and did not exceed 20 persons accommodated in the camp. The refugees transiting through the camp were mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan. What was typical for this month is that several Turkish citizens were placed in the camp, who had submitted asylum requests based on political persecution. At the end of the month, a total of 6 refugees were accommodated in the camp.

Available facilities and conditions

18 refugees were accommodated in the camp at the start of the month, whereby 8 of the Afghans staying there were immediately taken back to Greece. The people who stayed in the camp have origin from Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the very start of the month, the Deputy Minister of Interior, Mr. Agim Nuhiu, accompanied by a representative of the Czech Republic paid a visit to the camp and to “elevation 59”.

The Legis and La Strada organizations held creative workshops in the camp before the New Year holidays. Moreover, Legis regularly organizes creative workshops for the women in the camp.

The refugees accommodated in the camp can only go outside to take a walk in the city if accompanied by representatives of the competent institutions.

10 refugees originating from Iraq and Turkey who had been staying in the camp for about 2 weeks, submitted asylum requests. On the next day already, they were all transported to the Reception Center for asylum-seekers.

Institutional treatment

Over the course of this month, a total of 103 refugees were sent back to Greece by the Macedonian state services. Most of them go back voluntarily, as they are unable to continue on their journey.

On the night between the 01-02 December 2017, 8 refugees originating from Afghanistan, 8 women and 8 men were brought to the camp after being transported from the Bus Station in Gevgelija. They were on their way coming back from Serbia and they were immediately taken to Greek territory. On the next day (02.12.2017), 8 refugees originating from Afghanistan who were residing in the camp for a single

