



Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 10 February 2017

Hungarian Helsinki Committee

How many?

Measures taken by the Hungarian authorities in charge of border protection against irregular migrants

| | January | Total |
|---|---------|-------|
| Blocked entries under the so-called "8-kilometre rule" ¹ | 3 102 | 3 102 |
| Irregular migrants apprehended at other parts of Hungary | 138 | 138 |
| Total | 3 240 | 3 240 |

As a result of the '8-kilometre rule' legalising push-backs, the number of registered asylum **applications is low**:

| | January | Total |
|---|---------|-------|
| Asylum applications registered in the transit zones (25.12.2016-29.01.2017) | 426 | 426 |
| All asylum applications registered in Hungary | 536 | 536 |

In January 2017, only **21** asylum-seekers were **granted protection** (of which 8 were refugee and 13 were "subsidiary protection" statuses) **while 803 applications were rejected**.

From where?

In January 2017, the majority of asylum-seekers (**79 %**) **came from war- and terror-torn countries**, including 16 % from Syria, 40 % from Afghanistan, 22 % from Iraq and 1 % from Somalia. Of all the applicants, **38 %** were **children** and **30 % women**.

Where are they?

Based on the information provided to the HHC by the UNHCR, the facilities of the Immigration and Asylum Office (the former Office of Immigration and Nationality) hosted **377** asylum-seekers on 6 February: **113** were accommodated at **open reception centres** and **264 in specific "asylum jails"**.

Dublin returns

In January 2017, **36** asylum-seekers were **returned to Hungary** under the Dublin Regulation, primarily from Germany (22) and Austria (11).

Returns to Serbia

Based on statistics provided by the Police, in January-November 2016, only **182** irregular migrants were officially **returned to Serbia**. (Neither the refusal of the asylum applications in the transit zones, nor the "legalised" push-backs since 5 July result in such official readmissions). Among the readmitted persons, there were 84 Serbian, 35 Kosovar and 27 Albanian citizens. None of the returnees were Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi or Somali citizens.

Criminalisation of irregular border-crossing

Between 15 September 2015 and 31 January 2017, **2 895** persons faced criminal trial, out of which **2 843** were convicted for the "prohibited crossing of the border closure", i.e. the border fence between Serbia and Hungary. Only 7 cases have been tried since 10 July 2016.

¹ For further information on the '8-kilometre rule', please see: <http://www.helsinki.hu/en/hungary-access-denied/>