

RIJEKA, CROACIA



Something inexplicable is happening in Croatia.

While the border police and military commandos active in Croatia's eastern borders detain, torture and pushback dozens of people every week towards Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, in the west, in Rijeka, the police are pushing people to migrate towards Slovenia, to continue their journey towards central Europe.


It is paradoxical, but it is taking place systematically. The main goal is to kick them out, not having them on Croatian territory, so they are sent out through the nearest door.

For the Kitchen teams, this is a mental short-circuit. In the morning, in Sid (Serbia), we hear the testimony of kids who were beaten up while trying to walk into Zagreb. They receive no instructions, no papers certifying their pushback or their passage through Croatia. Invisible violence. Illegal.

In the afternoon, in this port city, Rijeka, the police checks the train station car park where No Name Kitchen and Caritas hand out food, provide showers and laundry services, clean clothes and medical care to those arriving by train from Zagreb. In the morning, after spending the night in a tent provided by the Croatian Red Cross, the police wake everyone up, young and old, and force them onto a bus to Lupoglav, near the Slovenian border. From there, they continue their long journey, irregularly, through the gap that others opened before in the fence separating the two countries.

The police know that there are Rottweilers on the loose in the Slovenian side that are trained to attack those who cross the border. That doesn't matter.

What matters is that they leave.



Hi mother,
We have finally reached Croatia. Tonight we
will sleep in a town called Rijeka.
There are volunteers here helping us with food,
clothes and showers. There's even free Wi-Fi!
The children are fine. They don't seem to
suffer, despite all the hardships we are putting
them through. Sometimes I feel so guilty...
Do you think I'm a good mother?
Love



discover the
story behind
this postcard.



illustrated by
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