B. had jumped the fence and was on the Hungarian side, next to the EU’s external border. He had been hiding for hours, waiting for daylight, when a torch was pointed directly into his eyes, blinding him for a few long seconds.

The police pushed him and he fell in front of them. They took his bag and emptied its contents onto the grass, aiming to find mobile phones or other valuables to confiscate and break them. But this time, they also got creative. “Eat this in 30 seconds,” they told him, grabbing the bread they found in the bag.

He obeyed, but he couldn’t finish it all. Because he couldn’t, they beat him with bamboo sticks and clubs.

It was early, around 6am. The sun had not yet risen, but it seemed about to do so. No matter how much he begged them to stop beating him, they kept on.

“Shut up!”, “You bastard, fuck off!”

“My back hurts so much, please, stop hitting me”.

But every time he asked them to stop, the soldiers beat him more.

Besides bread, there were also biscuits in the bag. The soldiers crushed them with their boots and forced him to eat them off the ground, on his knees, like a dog. When he stopped to breathe, they slapped him on his back and shouted “faster, faster, shit!”

During all this torture, the soldiers kept laughing.

“We are not allowed to raise our eyes, look at them and see who is torturing us. If you raise your head, they beat you even more.”

After the bread and biscuits, the soldiers forced three people to eat ladybirds and snails that they found on the ground, not far from where they were, face down, with their heads in the mud.

Hi my friend,
I’m tired of being here. I still remember the police beatings the last time we tried to cross to Hungary. We could not defend ourselves. I don’t even know how many times they were because they wouldn’t let us rise our heads from the ground. They took everything from us and forced us to eat the sweets they found on the ground. Now I believe that these people really don’t like us. I don’t feel myself any longer as a human being, they took away all my dignity from me.

B.