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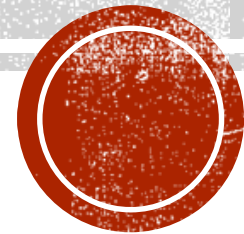
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia

PUSHBACKS: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Past Present Future 2020

The (Im)Penetrable Barriers: Borders and Migration in History

University of Pula, 15-17 October 2020



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REPORT ON ILLEGAL AND FORCED PUSH BACKS OF REFUGEES
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Zagreb, January 24th 2017.



March, 2019
Bosnia-Herzegovina



ILLEGAL PUSH-BACKS AND
BORDER VIOLENCE REPORTS





'Beaten and robbed': How Croatia is policing its borders

Migrants trying to enter the European Union via Croatia have been illegally expelled back to Bosnia by police.

Some even told the BBC police had beaten them up and robbed them.

One police officer, who wanted to remain anonymous, told the BBC he had taken part in three "pushback" operations.

🕒 29 Jul 2019



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AUTOR: N1 Beograd

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PUSHBACK

I OPASNE IGRE



Ponedeljak od 20:00



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Report | Doc. 14909 | 08 June 2019

Pushback policies and practice in Council of Europe member States

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Rapporteur : [Ms Tineke STRIK](#), Netherlands, SOC

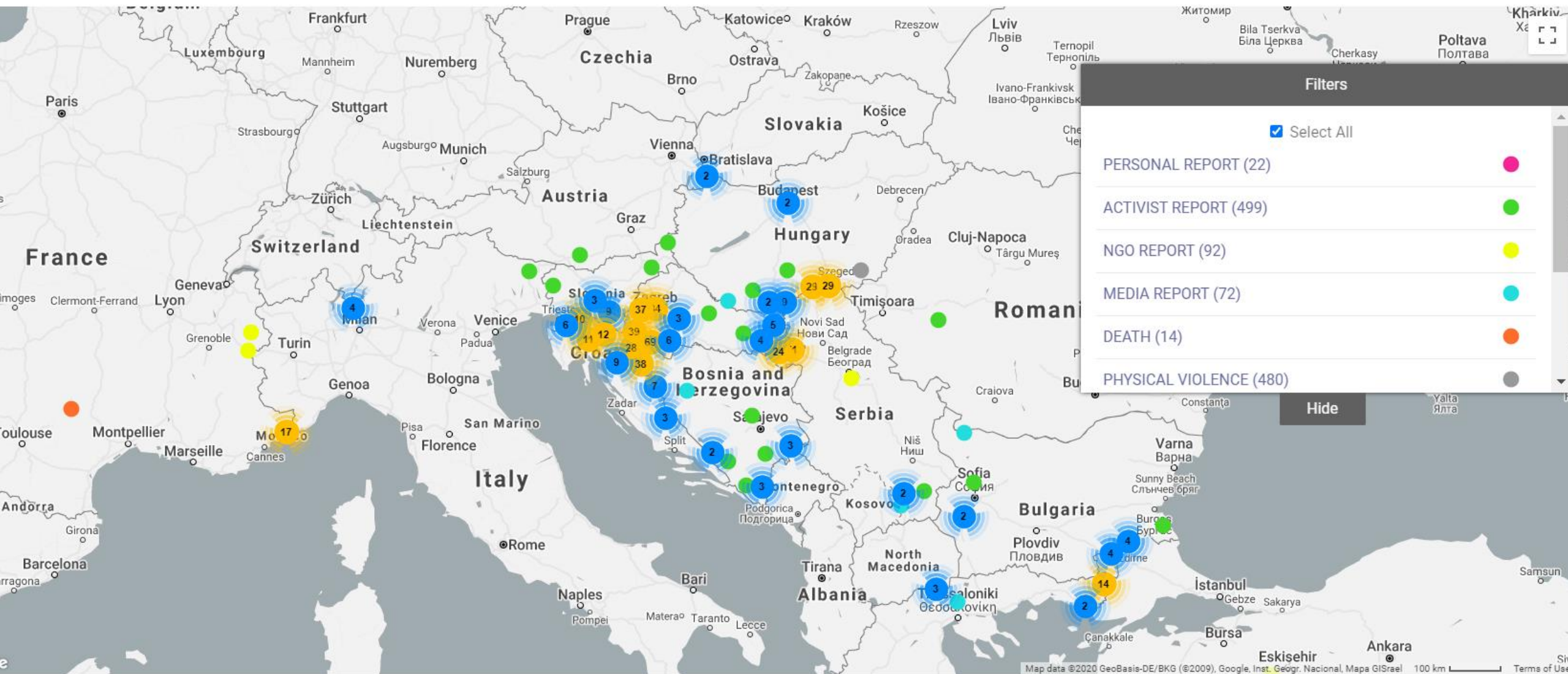
Origin - Reference to committee: [Doc. 14645](#), Reference 4414 of 21 January 2019. 2019 - Third part-session

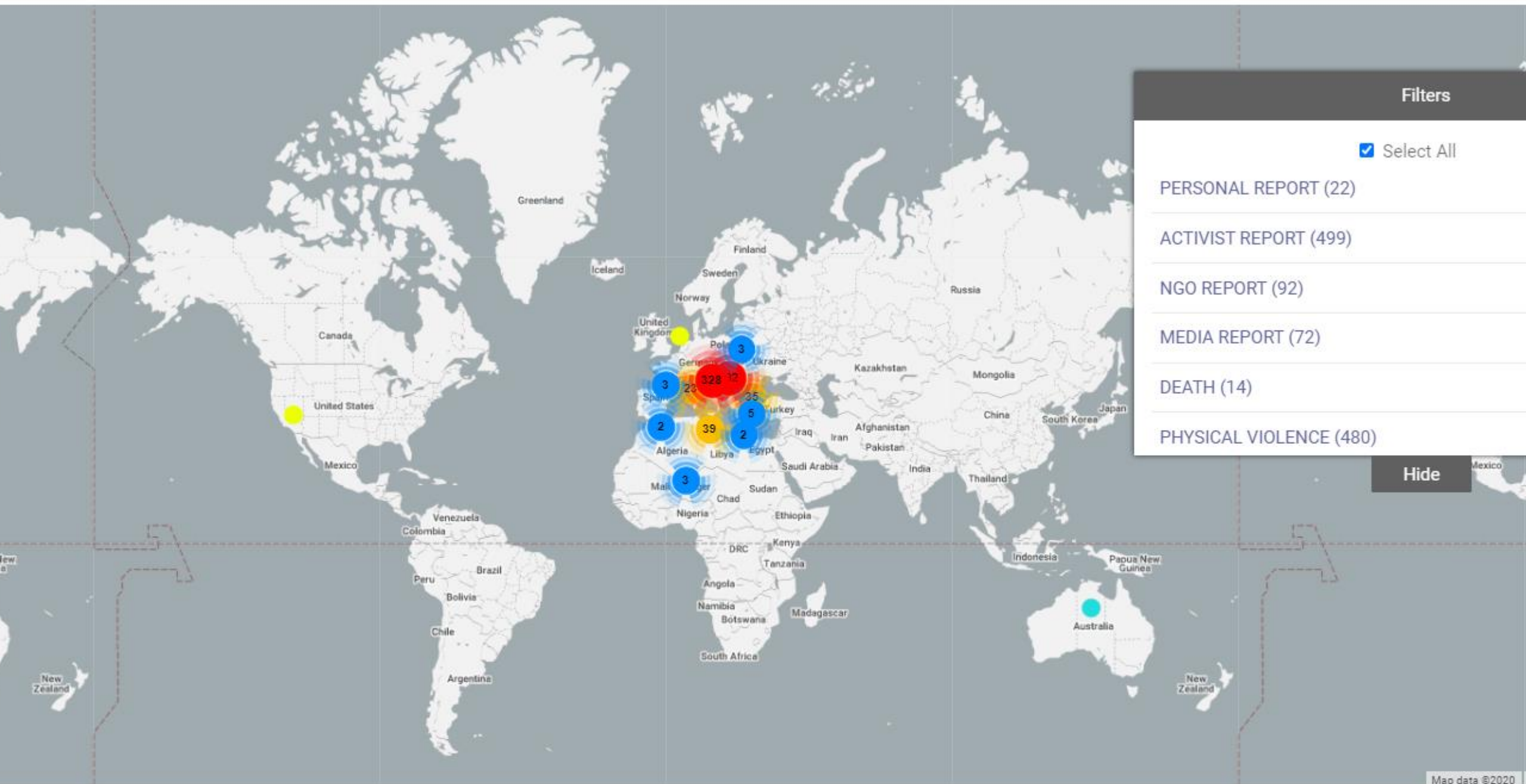
Summary

Pushback policies and practice are an increasing phenomenon at Europe's borders, in clear violation of the rights of asylum seekers and including the right to seek asylum and the protection against *refoulement*, which are at the core of international refugee and human rights law.

In the face of the gravity of the human rights violations involved, the governments of member States are urged to protect asylum seekers and to ensure that they are not subjected to pushback policies and practice.

<https://pushbackmap.org/>





Filters

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PERSONAL REPORT (22)

ACTIVIST REPORT (499)

NGO REPORT (92)

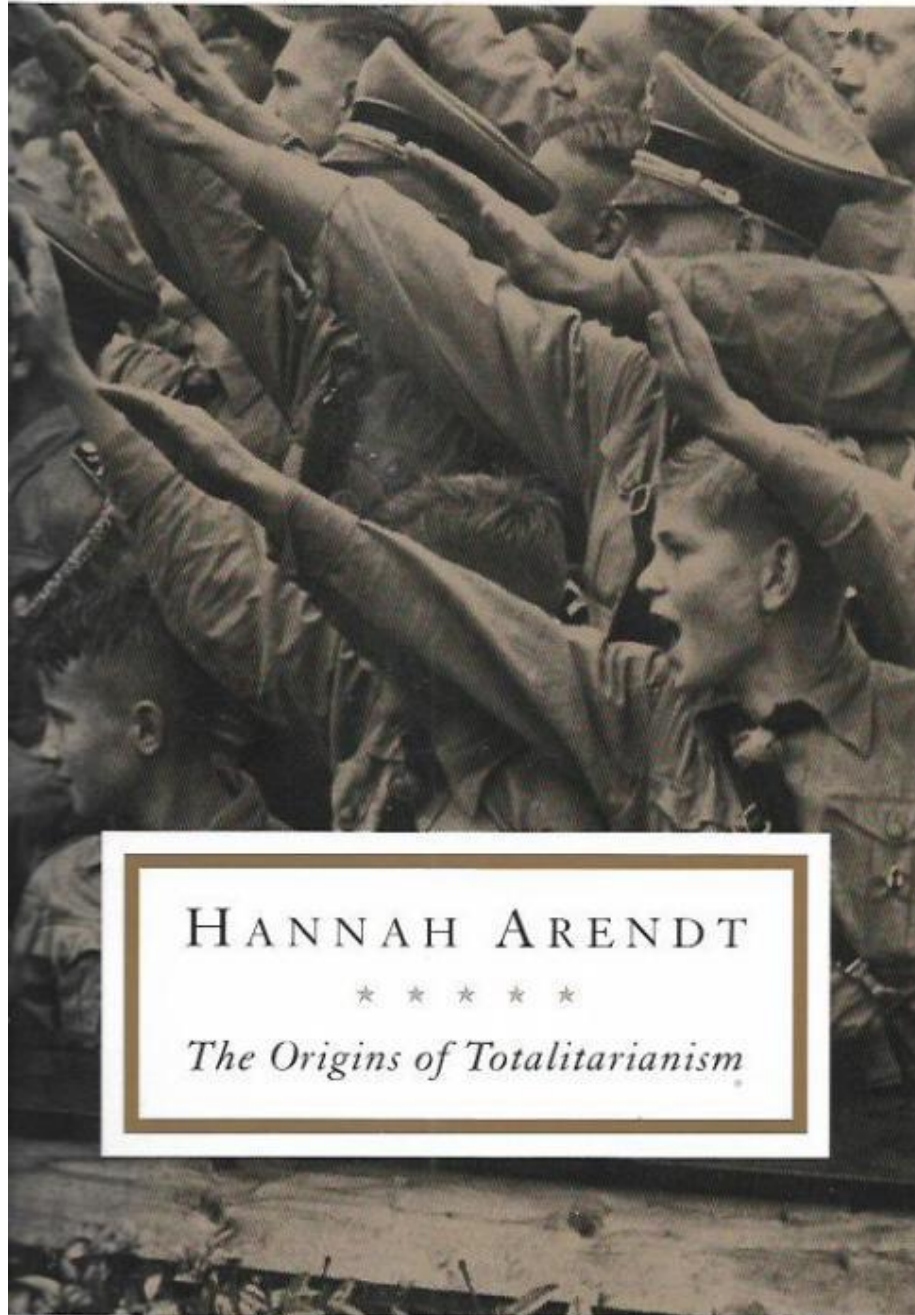
MEDIA REPORT (72)

DEATH (14)

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (480)

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"The work of one who has thought as well as suffered... A disquieting, moving,
and thought-provoking book." —THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW



HANNAH ARENDT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Origins of Totalitarianism



The real trouble started as soon as the two recognized remedies, repatriation and naturalization, were tried. Repatriation measures naturally failed when there was no country to which these people could be deported. They failed not because of consideration for the stateless person (as it may appear today when Soviet Russia claims its former citizens and the democratic countries must protect them from a repatriation they do not want); and not because of humanitarian sentiments on the part of the countries that were swamped with refugees; but because neither the country of origin nor any other agreed to accept the stateless person. It would seem that the very undeportability of the stateless person should have prevented a government's expelling him; but since the man without a state was "an anomaly for whom there is no appropriate niche in the framework of the general law"³⁴—an outlaw by definition—he was completely at the mercy of the police, which itself did not worry too much about committing a few illegal acts in order to diminish the country's burden of *indésirables*.³⁵ In other words, the state, insisting on its sovereign right of expulsion, was forced by



the illegal nature of statelessness into admittedly illegal acts.³⁶ It smuggled its expelled stateless into the neighboring countries, with the result that the latter retaliated in kind. The ideal solution of repatriation, to smuggle the refugee back into his country of origin, succeeded only in a few prominent instances, partly because a nontotalitarian police was still restrained by a few rudimentary ethical considerations, partly because the stateless person was as likely to be smuggled back from his home country as from any other, and last but not least because the whole traffic could go on only with neighboring countries. The consequences of this smuggling were petty wars between the police at the frontiers, which did not exactly contribute to good international relations, and an accumulation of jail sentences for the stateless who, with the help of the police of one country, had passed “illegally” into the territory of another.





ITALY/LIBYA

Pushed Back, Pushed Around

Italy's Forced Return of Boat Migrants and Asylum Seekers,
Libya's Mistreatment of Migrants and Asylum Seekers

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

Daniel, a 26-year-old Eritrean, told Human Rights Watch how the Maltese coast guard towed his disabled boat to a Libyan fishing boat that took them back to Libya in July 2005. His account speaks not only about how interdictions were carried out prior to May 2009, but also about the brutality of the smugglers, the dangers of the journey, and the ill treatment at the hands of the Libyan authorities upon being returned. He starts by saying that the smugglers used force to put them on the boat:

The smugglers beat us with a stick to get us to board the boat. They crammed 264 of us onto the boat. There were pregnant women, babies, children. The captain of the boat said there were too many, but the smugglers wouldn't listen. After ten hours, the motor broke. We had no food or water. We drifted for five days. The battery ran out on our Thuraya [satellite phone]. We were waiting to die.

On the fifth day, a coast guard boat from Malta came. It gave us some water. An old woman said, "I will see my son in Malta." The boat nearly capsized because people stood up to get the water. Another Maltese boat came, a command ship, and took photos of us. The Maltese boat brought a rope. They tied it to our boat and towed us. After two hours as the sun was going down the Maltese boat changed direction and took us to Libya. We saw we were going in the wrong direction. Everyone said, "Please, no." We pleaded with the Maltese. The Maltese just waved their hands to say no.

We saw a green banner of Libya on a fishing boat. The Maltese gave them the rope. Everyone was crying. Water was coming inside the boat. There were high waves. Our boat was tipping. For 20 minutes it looked like it really was capsizing. Then the Maltese cut the rope and they were gone. The fishing boat took us to Libya.

pushed back

systematic human rights violations against refugees
in the aegean sea and at the greek-turkish land border



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them that the Greeks left us there. The Turkish coastguards came and took us offshore’.

K.A. (Syria)¹⁴⁵/ pushed back from the strait of Samos on 27.9.13¹⁴⁶

K.A.: ‘We were ten Syrians in a boat, in the strait of Samos. We had almost arrived, when suddenly a very fast boat, with men dressed in black arrived. They came closer and slowly started pushing us, by bumping into our boat, until we arrived back on the Turkish coast. We were afraid, also because in that part there were rocks in the sea. They literally left us offshore, in the Turkish side. We jumped offshore and walked (...)’.

144 | Interviewed in Izmir (Turkey), August 24, 2013

145 | See also: Push-back on the 8th of August 2013 (Farmakonisi military island) and on the 28th of August 2013

146 | Interviewed in Athens (Greece); October 2, 2013

PHOTOS OF INJURIES



Injured back of Hakims' friend after the push-back (photo by Pablo Herreras Valls).

Recorded interview by No Name Kitchen, Velika Kladuša (BiH), 01/09/18



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Report on Push-backs and Police violence at the Serbo-Croatian border

 2. Februar 2016  Editor

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Content

- The situation of non-SIA people on the “Balkanroute”
- The situation in Belgrade
- Push-backs and police violence conducted by Croatian authorities
- Testimonies
- Conclusion

About

Moving Europe documents the situation on the Balkanroute, provides independent information for people on the move, and aims to strengthen political networks along the route.

Suche...





Thank you!

