



## Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 1 December 2016

*Hungarian Helsinki Committee*

### *How many?*

Despite the construction of the border fence on the Serbian and Croatian border sections, the number of **irregular migrants** apprehended by the Hungarian police has been **on the rise** for most part of 2016:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Irregular migrants apprehended	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	572	346	152	164	189	18 895
Blocked entries since 5 July	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 396	4 017	2 354	3 102	2 176	16 045
Total	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	4 968	4 363	2 506	3 266	2 365	34 940

Since the **'8-kilometre rule'** legalising push-backs came into force on **5 July**, the number of registered asylum applications radically decreased:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
Asylum-seekers registered in Hungary	433	2 175	4 574	5 812	4 752	4 745	1 688	1 402	1 118	1 198	728	28 803

In January-November 2016, only **398** asylum-seekers were **granted protection** (of which 139 were refugee and 259 were "subsidiary protection" statuses).

### *From where?*

In the first eleven months of 2016, the majority of asylum-seekers (**67 %**) **came from war- and terror-torn countries**, including 17 % from Syria, 38 % from Afghanistan, 12 % from Iraq and 1 % from Somalia. Of all the applicants, **29 %** were **children** and **22 %** **women**.

### *Where are they?*

Based on the information provided to the HHC by the UNHCR, the facilities of the Office of Immigration and Nationality hosted **540** asylum-seekers on 28 November: **240** were accommodated at **open reception centres** and **304** in specific **"asylum jails"**.

### *Dublin returns*

In January-November 2016, **474** asylum-seekers were **returned to Hungary** under the Dublin Regulation, primarily from Germany (269) and Switzerland (64).

### *Returns to Serbia*

Based on statistics provided by the Police, in January-August 2016, only **146** 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 60 Serbian, 30 Kosovar and 25 Albanian citizens. None of the returnees were Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi or Somali citizens.

### *Criminalisation of irregular border-crossing*

Between 15 September 2015 and 30 November 2016, **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.