



## Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 1 September 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 constantly **on the rise** since the beginning of 2016:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Irregular migrants apprehended	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	572	346	18 390
Blocked entries since 5 July	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 396	4 017	8 413
Total	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	4 968	4 363	26 803

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

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total
Asylum-seekers registered in Hungary	433	2 175	4 574	5 812	4 752	4 745	1 688	1 402	25 759

In January-July 2016, only **290** asylum-seekers were **granted protection** (of which 96 were refugee and 194 were "subsidiary protection" statuses).

### **From where?**

In the first eight months of 2016, the majority of asylum-seekers (**66 %**) **came from war- and terror-torn countries**, including 16% from Syria, 37% from Afghanistan, 11% from Iraq and 1% from Somalia. Of all the applicants, **25 %** were **children** and **21 % women**.

### **Where are they?**

Based on the information provided to the HHC by UNHCR, the facilities of the Office of Immigration and Nationality hosted **707** persons on 29 August: **474** were accommodated at **open reception centres** and **233 in specific "asylum jails"**.

### **Dublin returns**

In January-July 2016, **377** asylum-seekers were **returned to Hungary** under the Dublin Regulation, primarily from Germany (203) and Switzerland (55).

### **Returns to Serbia**

In January-July 2016, only **136** 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 52 Serbian, 30 Kosovar and 24 Albanian citizens. None of the returnees were Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi or Somali citizens.

### **Criminalisation of irregular border-crossi**

Between 15 September 2015 and 21 August 2016, **2 893** persons faced criminal trial, out of which **2 841** were convicted for the "prohibited crossing of the border closure", i.e. the border fence between Serbia and Hungary. Only 5 cases have been tried since 10 July 2016.