



## Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 1 October 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:

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Irregular migrants apprehended	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	572	346	152	18 542
Blocked entries since 5 July	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 396	4 017	2 354	10 767
Total	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	4 968	4 363	2 506	29 309

**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	September	Total
Asylum-seekers registered in Hungary	433	2 175	4 574	5 812	4 752	4 745	1 688	1 402	1 118	26 877

In January-August 2016, only **325** asylum-seekers were **granted protection** (of which 112 were refugee and 213 were "subsidiary protection" statuses).

### *From where?*

In the first nine 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, **26 %** were **children** and **21 % 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 **576** asylum-seekers on 19 September: **354** were accommodated at **open reception centres** and **222 in specific "asylum jails"**.

### *Dublin returns*

In January-August 2016, **404** asylum-seekers were **returned to Hungary** under the Dublin Regulation, primarily from Germany (226) and Switzerland (56).

### *Returns to Serbia*

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 26 September 2016, **2 894** persons faced criminal trial, out of which **2 842** were convicted for the "prohibited crossing of the border closure", i.e. the border fence between Serbia and Hungary. Only 6 cases have been tried since 10 July 2016.