

CROATIA

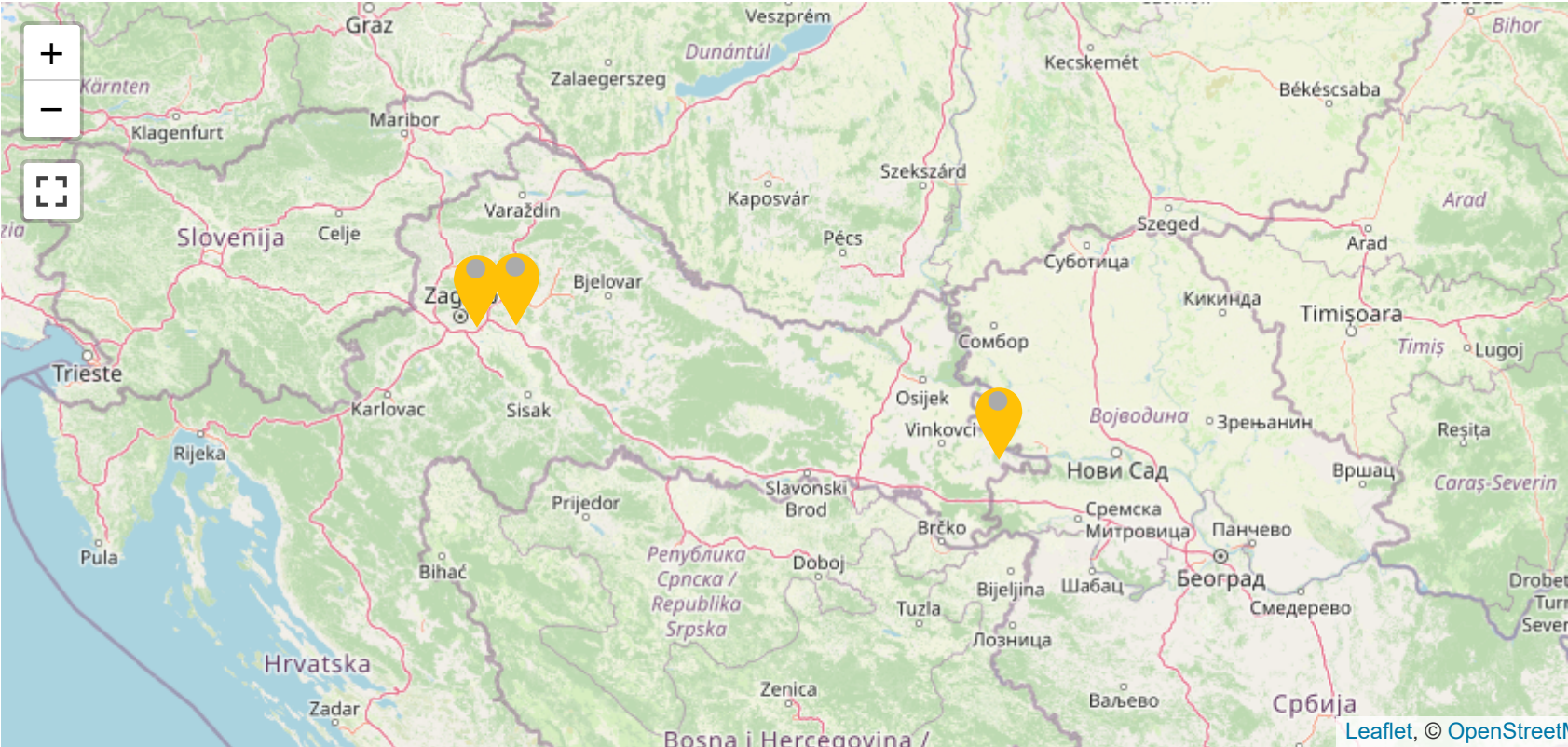


FEATURED REPORT

Detains migrants or asylum seekers?	Has laws regulating migration-related detention?	Migration Detainees	Apprehensions of Non-Citizens	Refugees	Asylum Applications
Yes	Yes	928 2018	5,580 2018	20,638 2022	1,200 2022

OVERVIEW

(June 2023) Faced with increasing migration flows, Croatia has focused on the securitisation of its borders—deploying thousands of police officers and using specialised equipment such as thermos-vision devices and drones. Recently, reports have alleged that Croatian authorities have been engaged in arbitrarily detaining and torturing irregular arrivals in ad hoc facilities, before forcing them back across the border to Bosnia. The country's official immigration detention system has also been the focus of criticism, as non-citizens are required to pay for their own detention and lack information about their rights and access to legal aid, and unaccompanied children are detained without adequate services.



Types of facilities used for migration-related detention

Administrative Ad Hoc Criminal Unknown

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20 August 2021 – Croatia

20 August 2021

Jezevo Reception Centre Seen From Outside, (Source: RTL,

More than a year since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Croatia had still not imposed a moratorium on new immigration detention orders and nor any released immigration as of mid/2021. Nonetheless there was a significant reduction in the number of people detained at the Jezevo Reception Centre in 2020, dropping to 163 from 535 [...]

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10 August 2020 – Croatia

10 August 2020

Responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, the Croatian Interior Ministry provided detailed information about measures that have been adopted in reception centres hosting asylum seekers. They also provided some limited information about Covid-19 procedures adopted for cases involving police interaction with "illegal migrants and aliens." However, the ministry gave no specific information concerning [...]

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02 August 2020 – Croatia

2 August 2020

Visits by Croatia's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) are currently suspended, impairing access to data and information relating to immigration detention and removal measures. As such, when the GDP contacted the country's Ombudsperson's office requesting information pertaining to immigration detention practices during the pandemic, the office instead recommended contacting the country's Interior Ministry to obtain relevant [...]

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22 June 2020 – Croatia

22 June 2020

In a joint statement published on 19 June, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Felipe González Morales, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Nils Melzer, said that they "are deeply concerned about the repeated and ongoing disproportionate use of force by Croatian [...]"

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21 May 2020 – Croatia

21 May 2020

Allegations of pushbacks at Croatia's borders with Serbia and Bosnia have increased in recent years – as the GDP reported in its 2019 country profile. According to the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN), these pushbacks have escalated during the pandemic, "confirming that illegal removal practices have not stopped, in spite of the formal closure of [...]"

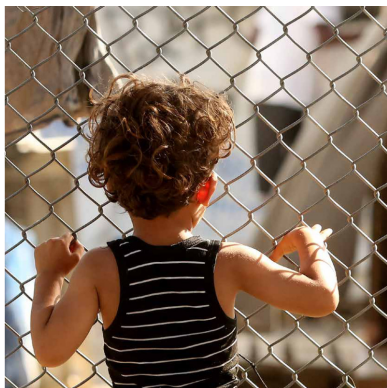
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 Jezevo Immigration Detention Centre
centar za strance (RTL,

 Border Violence Monitoring Network,
"They Stamped on his Leg, Causing it to
Break," 14 July 2020,
<https://www.borderviolence.eu/violence-reports/july-14-2020-0000-near-vinkovci-croatia/>

 A Group of Migrants Walk Through
Countryside in Northern Bosnia after Being
Physically Expelled by Police from Croatia,
(Elvis Barukcic, AFP, Getty Images,

 Croatian police have been accused of
spray painting asylum seekers heads (The
Guardian, 12 May 2020,
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/may/12/croatian-police-accused-of-shaving-and-spray-painting-heads-of-asylum-seekers>)



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The Global Detention Project is the world's leading research centre documenting the use of immigration detention as a response to migration and refugee movements and promoting respect for the rights of detainees.

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