

Special Monthly Edition

Camps Presevo, Bujanovac and Vranje



Borderfree in a Nutshell

“borderfree association” was launched, with the goal to concentrate humanitarian engagements, on the 9th of September 2015. The engagement originated in the spontaneous help actions which cared about the momentary situation of refugees in the Balkan.

The association supports humanitarian projects and processes for the purpose of a sustainable coordination of existing, as

well as future projects and has neither religious-nationalistic, nor politically motivated agenda. The association stands for humanitarian values such as respect, tolerance and open-mindedness and would like to contribute, with its engagement, in the reaching of the vision of a humanitarian life for everyone.

The majority of the founders are from the Balkan. Some of them had to flee their country when they were children or teenagers and are therefore strongly connected to the topic. Through their origin they were connected to aid organisations and projects on site in Serbia and were therefore able to intervene purposefully and in a well-coordinated manner.

While working hard to improve the lives of refugees, “borderfree association” strongly distances itself from illegal activities and efforts to subvert the state and police.

“borderfree association” is registered in Switzerland, Serbia and Greece.

This newspaper aims informing as to Borderfree activities, all the while providing a space for refugees in the different camps where Borderfree is permanently active to freely express themselves and share about their experiences.





Afghani night in Vranje

As I'm working in Preševo Camp since I arrived in Serbia, I'm not very familiar with the two other camps in Bujanovac and Vranje. For this reason I was pretty excited about the Afghani night which has taken place last Saturday. It had the goal to introduce the Afghani culture to the local population.

In the late afternoon the Borderfree-Group drove from Preševo to Vranje, where we and the locals had been warmly welcomed by those cute children which were standing in two rows, holding flowers in their hands and smiling to us. As soon as we passed our way between the kids, we could listen to some beautiful Afghani music. The large tables were covered with delicious food such as chicken, kufta, many salads, fruits and so on.

It finally became dark outside and the men built a dancing circle and showed us their typical folk dance. They danced passionately and they really enjoyed themselves. Of course our male

volunteers had no chance to escape it, so they had the opportunity to learn some new moves. It's been such a pleasure to see how they proudly introduced us to their culture and let us be a part of it.



The women surrounded them while they were dancing and they were loudly jeering at them. Some of the ladies moved their heads a little bit but they didn't join the dance as it's customary in Afghanistan that women and men dance separated from each other. On that account, our volunteers Diana and Seline had the idea to organize a few hours of dancing with the women after class. The women were so enthusiastic about it and so they turned the classroom into a big dancefloor. We are glad that the women in Vranje also got the chance to express themselves for dancing and we will try our best to provide room and space to them for pursuing this passion.

LORENA NOCERA
VOLUNTEER IN PRESEVO

Tearful reunion

For weeks now, the boys and girls from Presevo have been asking to go to the other camps for an afternoon. It's taken some planning, but it's finally happened.

Wednesday afternoon, Bojan drove the boys to Bujanovac, where they happily engaged in football with the other boys. In spite of the heat, the boys diligently went through the drills. Chaotic happiness at being together once again.



On Saturday, girls, women and children all piled into the red trusty Borderfree van, as many as possible, and off we went again. The usual quietude of Vranje turned into a merry hustle and bustle. Joyful laughter as they laid eyes on each other. The girls and women ran into each other's arms, the children scattered in search of playmates.

They used see each other daily in Presevo, spend all their time together, fast friends brought together by circumstances. Now

it's been months since they've seen each other. Cheeks are wet with tears, they cling to each other "I've missed you, I miss you!".

They know their time together is limited, so we make the most of it. Hurried conversations, rapid footsteps, there is no time to lose. So much to do, so much to see, so much to say. For a few hours, it doesn't matter anymore, they are together.

The women sat together for tea, showed off their babies, that had grown so much in the last few months, even challenged the men to a game of volleyball. The boys tested each other at cricket, football and volleyball, and the girl's football team, finally reunited, stormed the field.



In the waning light, we gathered around to say tearful goodbyes. A beautiful afternoon, with beautiful people, and full hearts, until next time.

HEBA BIERI

VOLUNTEER IN PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC, VRANJE

Early marriage

Some men think that early marriage is the only way to protect a girl. Before she turns 18, her father wants to marry her to a boy/man he chooses for her. Father think his choice is the right one and that the girl's choice is the wrong one. He cannot know if this person will be a good one or a bad one. Girl early gets pregnant and this causes to her and her children's lives. She feels that this early marriage is a mistake and that she will make more mistakes. Mistakes will lead to divorce. She will live every day life, bring up her children, I don't justify mistakes of girls. Family is responsible for them. They don't understand that girl belongs to the same society like boy/man does. She has to right to choose man, work and study. I wish all the world will see my message and that everyone will understand the value of women.

ABEER RAFIQ AL JARF
CAMP BUJANOVAC

يعتقد بعض الشعوب ان الزواج المبكر للفتاة هو الحل الوحيد للحفاظ عليها
وقبل تطبيق سن الثامنة عشر يقوم الآباء بتزوجها إلى رجال هم يختارونها باعتبارهم أن اختيار الاهل وصح واختيار الفتاة خطأ ولايدركون ربما ان يكون هذا الرجل صالح اغير صالح
تقوم الفتاة بلانجاب المبكر ومما يؤدي إلى تدمير حياتها هي وأطفالها
يمكن أن تدرك هذه الفتاة بعد وقت خطأها في الزواج المبكر فمنهن مصيرهم الطلاق ومنهم من يقمن بأخطاء عديده ومنهن من يمارسنا حياتهم بشكل طبيعي للحفاظ على أطفالهم وانا هنا لا تبرر خطأ الفتيات لان الاهل هو المسؤولون عن خطأهم ولايدركون ان الفتاة تملك نصف المجتمع مثلها كمثل الشاب وهي لها الحق في اختيار الشاب ولها الحق في العمل والدراسة
اتمنى ان رسالتي ان تصل الى كافة انحاء العالم ليدركوا اهمية المرأة
عبير رفيق الجرف



Rundak's brother - Asina's wings

Hello my name is Rundak. I am 14 years old and I am from Iraq, from Kurdistan. Now I am in Bujanovac camp in Serbia. My dream is one day to work in the police. I want to live in Switzerland or in America. When I go to another country, i will go to the police academy to study.

We have a problem at home. My brother has a problem with his heart. Doctors in Kurdistan say than we can not operate my brother's heart because he is very young. An operation is possible only in German and the doctors told us to go there with my brother.

We went to Turkey, and it was so difficult for me and my brother. After that we went to Bulgaria. From there i walked 23 hours to Serbia. In Bulgaria, the police put us in jail for 18 days, and after that, we were in the camp for 3 months. We had to pay smugglers to come to Serbia, and I am waiting here 7 months for the list to go to Hungary. We don't know when that will be.

سلاف نافئ من روندك از 14 سالم نوكه ل صربيا ل بوئانوفا هيفيا منا مه زن اوه بيم بؤليس و راستي از كه له ك حه ش درؤن ناسي دكم جونكي از بئ زيركم ،ليبيا كه نكي بكهमे دوله ته كى تتي دخينم دا بكهमे هيفيا خو،و از ياهاتيم اوروبا زبه ر كو براي من نه باشه نه خو شيا دلي يا لى و ل كوردستاني نه شيان چاره سه ريا وي بكه ن و دكوتنه مه ، ببورن ام نه شين جارسه ريا كورئ وبكن ،و دكوتن اف كوره بتقي نشسته كه ربي يه ل اوروبا تا جارستريا وى بهت كرن ،مه او دقست هلات نينه ام جيكن كورئ وه ، و ز هينكى وقره ام يت بريفه نه مه دقيت ام بجن اوروبا بو جارستريا وى ام هاتن توركيا و مه كه له ك عزاب ديت ام كهشتن برغا ليا و ل برغا ليامه زيده عزاب ديت ام 23 سعتابه س ب بيا دجون لئ با ام هاتن كرتن ، و ام 18 رؤزا مان د سجنئ فه و بشتيهنكى ام جون كمبئ بشتئ دوو سئ هيفا ام مه فيا چاره ك دي ام بهين صربيا و ام هاتن نوكه ام يال صربيا افه 7 هيفه از ل صربيا و هيشتا نه دياره كا دجن ان نه نو كه ب خاترا وه

Hi, my name is Asina. I'm 14 years old. I'm at Camp Bujanovac, I'm studying here. I want to go out one day to get to my dreams. I wish to go and study and serve. I wish that when I get rid of my lessons, I would like to fly and travel around the world. I wanted to be in control and now I want to be in the service and serve the people, and I hope that I will have a day off.

سلام اسم من حسينه اسنم من 14 ساله اسنم من در بوئانواس اسنم من در اينجا درس ميخوانم و من ميخواهم يکروز از اينجا برم تا به آرزو هايم برسم آرزو دارم كه بروم و درس بخوانم و خدمت كنم آرزو دارم وقتئ من درس هايم را خلاص كردم ميخواهم پيلوت شوم و در تمام كشور هاي دنيا سفر كنم كوچك هم بودم ميخواستم پيلوت شوم و حال هم ميخواهم پيلوت شوم و در مردم خدمت كنم و اميد دارم كه يکروز پيلوت شوم.....

Dentures for Mr. Rade



A few days ago we got a call from one older man from Vranje. His name is Rade Krstic. He is 61 years old and after working in government company for 27 years he was fired and has been unemployed for 15 years and has been living with no income ever since. Nevertheless, he is a very humane man as he is a registered blood donor and has donated blood more than 65 times during his life.

He read an article about the Borderfree dental team in the Bujanovac newspaper 'Srpski Venac' and has reached out to us for help. He explained to us over the phone that he had a difficulty chewing and that he was not able to eat normally.

As we were planning on working in camp Vranje in few days we told him that we would contact him when we get there.

After careful examination we realized that the situation is worse than we expected. In both jaws he had only a few teeth that were in bad shape and that he could not eat at all!

The plan for his therapy is for the teeth to be extracted because in that state they could only be a source of infection and then to make dentures for him.

To succeed in our plan we will need a dental technician who will make the part of the denture for which the dental clinic has no equipment, which will cost 100 euros.

After consulting with Vanja and Samir who approved his therapy, we contacted Mr. Rade and during this week his transport from Vranje to Presevo will be organized after which we will start with our work.

BORDERFREE DENTAL TEAM

Proteze za gospodina Radeta

Pre nekoliko dana smo dobili poziv od jednog gospodina iz Vranja. Njegovo ime je Rade Krstic, ima 61 godinu i nezaposlen je vec 15 godina. Posle 27 godina radnog staza u preduzecu za puteve ostao je bez posla i sada zivi bez ikakvih primanja. A opet i pored toga, on je veliki humanista. 65 puta je bio dobrovoljni davalac krvi.

U Bujanovackim novinama 'Srpski venac' procitao je tekst o nama, da radimo sa migrantima i lokalnim stanovnistvom, a onda je preko doktora iz kampa Vranje dosao do naseg kontakta. Zamolio je za pomoc. Jos preko telefona je objasnio da je njegov problem sa zubima takav da mu je funkcija zvakanja jako otezana i da nije u mogucnosti da pravilno jede.

Posto je nas plan bio da posetimo kamp Vranje, obekali smo da cemo ga pozvati kada budemo tamo.

Tako je i bilo.

Pregledom smo utvrdili da je situacija mnogo ozbiljnija. U obe vilice ima samo nekoliko zuba koji su u jako losem stanju i plan terapije bi bio da se oni izvade jer u takvom stanju mogu samo da budu izvor infekcije, a onda da se urade i dve totalne proteze.

Da bismo uspeli da sprovedemo plan potrebna je saradnja sa zubnom tehnikom koja ce da uradi onaj deo za koji mi u dentalnoj klinici nismo opremljeni. Ta usluga bi kostala 100eura.

Posle konsultacije sa Vanjom i Samirom, koji su odobrili da zapocnemo terapiju, kontaktirali smo gospodina Radeta i u toku ove nedelje bi trebalo da se organizuje i njegov transport do kampa u Presevu, nakom cega i mi zapocinjemo sa svojim radom.



Abeer's corner

Life is very beautiful in every thing: the nature, the weather, the seasons. But it is very hard. Because it has separation and migration and it has death. I will not say that death is separation because it is written. But why the separation in this life? We are not death. Is it because of war? Or harsh conditions? I don't know. We were refugees in past lives. Yes life was hard. But now we are living in poverty only. Children are denied their rights. This child doesn't know what happened with his family. They don't know that we are immigrants from our country. I don't know if I will arrive or not. All feel sick, in mind body and soul. Because they have sadness. They will see a gleam of hope in this country. I can't answer all the questions. But now I will talk about myself. I will be strong because of my children. Because I do not want my children to suffer grief and separation like me. I wish for all the refugees here to have patience and strength.

إن الحياة جميلة في كل ماقبها في من الطبيعة والجو والفصول ولكنها صعبة جداً لأنها محاطة بالفراق والحزن والموت ، يمكن أن أقول إن الموت ليس فراقاً لأنه قدر مكتوب علينا لكن لماذا الفراق في هذه الدنيا ونحن

ليس بأموال هل الحرب هي السبب أم الظروف القاسية أنني لا اعلم ، كنا نعيش نحن اللاجئين بأمان ربما نعيش في صعوبه الحياة مثل قلة المعيشة ولكن اليوم نعيش ليس الفقر فقط بل ما هو اصعب منه وهو حرمان الأطفال من أبسط حقوقهم ربما الأطفال لا يعلمون ما يعانیه الاهل من صعوبات خصوصاً ونحن الآن مهاجرين الى بلدان لانعرف إن كنا سنصل ام لا ، أصبحنا نعاني من الأمراض من كثرة الحزن ومن اليأس

هل سنرى بصيص من الأمل في هذا البلد الكثير من الأسئلة لا يمكنني الجواب عليها ولكني الآن سأتكلم عن نفسي سأكون قوية جداً لأجل أطفالي فقط لا اريدهم أن يعانوا مأساتي و فراقي عن أحبائي اتمنا لهم ولكل لاجئ هنا بأن لا يفقد الأمل ويتمتع بالقوة ويصمد



In forensic medicine a man that died is examined. The cause of death is strong bleeding made by knife stabbing. We see wounded heart that is bleeding. The

reason is strange. When this man approached death and in the last moments of life, his heart strongly contracted and the blood went to his brain in order to save him. The attempt was unsuccessful. The strength of contraction led to death. Similar things happen to us in our real lives. Our hearts are hurt and emotions leave us because we want to please our mind like that man who died because the attempt of his heart to save him was unsuccessful. Sometimes we die both physically and emotionally. It happens when we decide to leave the heart because we think that the mind and the logic are wise.



في الطب الشرعي
يتم فحص الانسان الذي مات بسبب نزيف حاد نتيجه
طعنة سكين مثلا
نجد الغلاف القلب المجروح ويخرج منه الدم • والسبب
غريب جدا
عندما يشارف الإنسان على الموت في تلك الحالة وفي
آخر لحظات حياته يقوم القلب بلانقباض بقوه شديده
لأجل أن يخرج الدم إلى الدماغ في محاوله يائسه ومنه
الانقاذ ومن شدة الانقباض يقوم بإزاء نفسه
وهذا مايشابه ما يحدث معنا في حياتنا الواقعيه كثيرا
مانجرح قلوبنا ونتخلى عن عواطفنا في سبيل إرضاء
عقولنا ومثلما يموت الإنسان في عالم طب لأجل
المحاولة اليائسه نموت أحيانا انسانيا ونفسيا عندما نقرر
ان نتخلى على القلب في سبيل مانظن ان العقل والمنطق
هو الحكمه

A portrait

My name is Ahriman Ibrahim, I am 20 years old from Syria. I grew up in a simple family. We are from the North East of Syria (Derek), we lived in Damascus. Actually, I and my four siblings are born there. We grew up in a wonderful farm. My father had a good job and we were studying, everything was perfect, until the problems started.



The problems that became an ugly war. I remember that like it was yesterday. We heard that something happened in another city, and we thought that it will end in a short time, but unfortunately, no.

And now here i am in a small city called Presevo. A place i didn't know before or expected to stay in. After a long and dangerous journey, it looks like we have to stay here a little bit. Here we have families and single people, men and women, kids and old people, everyone has his own story or reasons that med them leave their country.

In the first two weeks, i felt very bad. I was desperated, lazy and doing nothing, thinking about what will happen next. One day, I realized that I am on the wrong path, I can't do that to myself. So I started to think about what I have to do to use my

time, my precious time. It must be something good and useful.

I heard from someone that there is an organisation that is teaching languages to people, and that they have activities. The next day, I went to the school, the Borderfree School. At the time, classes were held in the Umbrella room, which is now a cafe. My first class was German.

Since that day, my life in this camp has changed to become better. I learnt another language, improved my English. I met

creative, wonderful and great people. They made me happy and more positive, and they became my best friends. Now I am spending every available hour with them, all the thanks for them.

At the end, I just want to say:

“Be useful and helpful, make friends, learn new things, use your time and be positive and never let your day pass without a smile.”

AHRIMAN IBRAHIM
CAMP PRESEVO

