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# **THE SITUATION OF TRANSIT REFUGEES PASSING FROM THE BORDERS OF ALBANIA-** INFORMATION GATHERED BY THE EXPERTS OF 12 OBSERVATORY'S OFFICES IN REGIONAL LEVEL

## **Newsletter- Nr 1, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

Based on the latest happenings that the countries of European Union are being confronted with the process of emigration of Syrian refugees, and based on the information that these refugees are passing from the Albanian borderlines to reach the EU countries destination, Observatory for the Children's Rights undertook the initiative to collect information from all the 12 offices operating in regional level in all the regions of Albania regarding this situation. The information was collected from many sources in central and local level and was more specific from the regions next to the borderlines of Albania.

While collecting the information from the 12 offices, the Observatory's central offices contacted with the director of Directory of Citizenship and Refugees in the Ministry of Interior, Mrs. Alma Mele. She recommended to contact the Borderlines Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get information for this issue. Based on this recommendation Observatory's experts contacted the Borderlines Police to get information about this situation.

In Korca region the Observatory expert contacted the head of Borderline Police and he gave the information that they have had no cases of asylum seekers who have passed the borders of Albania in Kapshtica to reach other states. They had only one case of an Albanian family who wanted to pass the borders of Kapshtica to emigrate in Germany.

Observatory in Gjirokastra reported that based on the information of the Regional Borderline Directory and Emigration in Gjirokastra, they have had no cases of transit asylum seekers passing from the borders of Gjirokastra. This situation vanished since two months ago when Albanian families were asking to pass the borders to get asylum in Germany.

Observatory expert in Fier contacted with the Directory of Police in Fier Region and they informed that they had no information about transit refugees.

The expert of Observatory office in Diber region contacted with the inspector of borderline Mr. Defrim Merdini, who admitted that they had no cases of transit refugees in the borderlines of Blata and Trebishta.

The Observatory expert in Kukes contacted with the director of the Borderlines Mr. Xhevdet Axhami. He informed that in the 3 borderlines of Kukes Region there were registered zero cases of transit asylum seekers.

Observatory for the Children's Rights will get periodic information from its 12 offices covering all the regions of the country, regarding this situation and will update the information "map" of transit refugees.