

1. **Marble and children**

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Marble and Children je univerzální příběh o uprchlících, kteří se snaží získat azyl, jelikož mají strach a obavy o budoucnost svých dětí. Agnieszka a Katarzyna strávily několik dní na nádraží v Brestu a poslouchaly pohnuté příběhy o pronásledování a násilí od uprchlíků z Čečenska, kde se podle oficiálních zdrojů situace stále zlepšuje.

SYNOPSIS (in English)

Since the beginning of the first Chechen War (1994), a route from the Caucasus through Moscow to Belarusian town of Brest has been the route well-tried by refugees seeking asylum in Europe, outside the borders of the Russian Federation. In the last 15 years, over 90 thousand of Chechens have taken this road and found shelter in Poland and other European countries. However, at the end of May and beginning of June 2016, the Brest (Belarus) - Terespol (Poland) border crossing became a bottleneck. Dozens of refugees fleeing Chechnya have unsuccessfully attempted to cross the border forty times or more. They are sent back by Polish border guards on the grounds they have no visas, although they declare to be refugees seeking international protection.

Meanwhile, the Polish Minister of Home Affairs, Mariusz Błaszczak, boasts success in blocking a new migration channel used by terrorists and illegal immigrants flooding Europe. But is it really a flooding wave, when the statistics show the number of attempts to cross the border and not the people sent back from Terespol to Brest for the fortieth time or more. The majority of them are families, single mothers with children, and elderly sick people.

The immigrants turned back at the border return to the Brest railway station, which has become to be known as Little Chechnya. They live, sleep and eat here; their children attend democratic school organised by a charismatic social activist Marina Hulia. Agnieszka Czyżewska-Jacquemet and Kasia Michalak have spent a few days at the Brest railway station listening to emotional stories of persecution and violence told by refugees fleeing a country where, according to official sources, things are getting better all the time.

With hidden microphones, they have accompanied immigrants on their attempt to cross the border. Yet, most importantly, *Marble and Children* is a universal story about refugees seeking asylum out of fear and concern about the future of their young ones.

Report has been nominated to Prix Bohemia Radio festival by Radio Lublin.