

RUSSIAN BORDER GUARDS CROSS INTO ESTONIA AT THE VASKNARVA BREAKWATER

Shortly before 10 a.m. on 17 December 2025, Estonian surveillance recorded three Russian border guards leaving a hovercraft and walking along the Vasknarva breakwater on the Narva River across the temporary control line into Estonian territory, before returning to Russia; the interior minister said they were on Estonian soil for about 20 minutes without the usual notification. On 18 December the Foreign Ministry summoned Russia's chargé d'affaires and delivered a protest note.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
BEYOND UKRAINE
AS OF 20 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF

OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTION

A government, a prosecutor, the EU, NATO or a UN body has formally named Russia, its services or its state-backed forces. This is a position of that authority, not a verdict.

WHO ESTABLISHED IT

Named: Russia. Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (17 and 18 Dec 2025) and Police and Border Guard Board (PPA). Estonia has not established the motive; Interior Minister Igor Taro said there was no direct security threat.

LATEST

On 30 Jan 2026 the PPA said Russia 'continues to deny the illegal border crossing documented by Estonia' and ended border-representative talks on the matter; surveillance of the section was reinforced.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Foreign Minister Tsahkna said the best answer to Russia's testing of the border is continued support for Ukraine and more pressure on Russia.

SOURCES

A Estonian MFA – Russian border guards illegally crossed the temporary control line on the Narva River · 2025-12-17

<https://vm.ee/en/news/russian-border-guards-illegally-crossed-temporary-control-line-narva-river>

A Estonian MFA – Foreign Ministry summons Russian chargé d'affaires to deliver note on violation of temporary control line · 2025-12-18

<https://vm.ee/en/news/foreign-ministry-summons-russian-charge-daffaires-deliver-note-violation-temporary-control>

B ERR News – PPA: Russia continues to deny illegal border crossing at Estonia's Vasknarva · 2026-01-30

<https://news.err.ee/1609927877/ppa-russia-continues-to-deny-illegal-border-crossing-at-estonia-s-vasknarva>

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Name the instrumentalisation of migrants as a hybrid attack by the state that organises it.
- Support the EU and frontline states in protecting their borders while respecting international law.
- Sanction the officials and networks that move people to the border.

Status follows four degrees of proof: court finding · official attribution · charged · suspected (suspected cases are listed only on the live page). Tier A = courts, UN bodies, international organisations · B = governments, prosecutors · C = media and investigators. Corrections: evidence@ukraine-evidence.org



live page · corrections