

FINLAND SHUTS ITS LAND BORDER AFTER RUSSIA CHANNELS MIGRANTS IN A 'HYBRID OPERATION'

In November 2023 Finland began closing crossings on its border with Russia, saying 'the Russian authorities are allowing' the irregular entry of people and that 'instrumentalised migration from Russia' posed a serious threat; from 24 November only Raja-Jooseppi remained open. After two crossings reopened briefly, the government closed the entire land border from 15 December 2023, the interior minister calling it a sign that 'the Russian authorities are continuing their hybrid operation against Finland'.

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. Finnish Government decisions and releases of 22 Nov and 14 Dec 2023 (Interior Minister Mari Rantanen), under section 16 of the Border Guard Act. European Commission Communication of 11 Dec 2024 refers to 'the weaponisation of migration by Russia, assisted by Belarus' and funded surveillance on the borders with Russia and Belarus.

LATEST

The government decided on 16 Apr 2025 to keep the crossings closed until further notice; the Border Security Act (Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalised Migration), in force since 22 Jul 2024, was extended to 31 Dec 2026. Media reported in Sept 2026 a government proposal to extend it to 31 Dec 2028 (pending Parliament).

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The episode followed Finland's NATO accession amid Russia's war against Ukraine; the EU treats it as part of Russia's hybrid campaign against the Union.

SOURCES

A Finnish Government – Finland to close more border crossing points · 2023-11-22
<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410869/finland-to-close-more-border-crossing-points>

A Finnish Government – Finland's entire eastern border closed again · 2023-12-14
<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410869/finland-s-entire-eastern-border-closed-again>

A Finnish Government (Ministry of the Interior) – Validity of Border Security Act to be extended until 31 December 2026 · 2025-06-18
<https://stm.fi/en/web/vn/-/1410869/validity-of-border-security-act-to-be-extended-until-31-december-2026->

C High North News – Finland's eastern border to remain closed until further notice · 2025-04-22
<https://en.highnorthnews.com/home/finlands-eastern-border-to-remain-closed-until-further-notice/106214>

C Kurs.com.ua – Finland plans to extend special border regime with Russia · 2026-09-03
<https://kurs.com.ua/en/novost/1477398-finljandija-planue-prodovzhiti-osoblivii-prikordonnii-rezhim-z-rosieju>

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.

