

LATVIAN ARMY PUBLISHES EVIDENCE BELARUSIAN MILITARY AND BORDER UNITS STEER MIGRANTS

On 15 January 2026 Latvia's Joint Headquarters of the National Armed Forces published material it said confirms the involvement of Belarusian law-enforcement and military structures in directing migrants to the Latvian border. Documents and communications equipment linked to a serviceman of the reconnaissance battalion of the 19th Guards Mechanised Brigade (Vitebsk region) were found on a detained border crosser, and photos show Belarusian State Border Committee officials with migrants, including in military-type vehicles.

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: Belarus (state military and border structures). Latvian Ministry of Defence / Joint Headquarters of the National Armed Forces, 15 Jan 2026. Russia is not named in this release.

LATEST

Migration pressure from Belarus surged again in July–August 2026 (see separate entry).

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Belarus is Russia's co-belligerent ally hosting Russian forces; Riga treats the pressure as part of the wider hybrid campaign against Ukraine's supporters.

SOURCES

A Latvian Ministry of Defence – National Armed Forces publish evidence of Belarus's involvement in the planning and organization of illegal migration · 2026-01-15

<https://www.mod.gov.lv/en/news/national-armed-forces-publish-evidence-belarus-involvement-planning-and-organization-illegal>

B LSM – Latvia says it has evidence Belarus is aiding illegal migration into EU · 2026-01-14

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/defence/14.01.2026-latvia-says-it-has-evidence-belarus-is-aiding-illegal-migration-into-eu.a629999/>

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.

