

October 2023

Statistics We Are Monitoring

We are the resilient Sudanese people, trapped in an unforgiving and illegal limbo between the lands of Poland and Belarus. Our desperate journey to escape the horrors of war in Sudan has led us to this dire crossroads, where every passing moment feels like an eternity. We stand at the precipice of despair, unable to return to Belarus or Russia, for they are accomplices in the heinous crimes committed by the Rapid Quick Force (Malishia), which continue to haunt our families in Sudan. As the frigid grip of winter tightens its hold, we find ourselves on the brink of extinction. The relentless cold gnaws at our very souls, and we struggle to endure for more than a mere two days. Our situation is dire, and the specter of death looms ever closer, casting a shadow of sorrow over our desperate souls. dire crossroads, where every passing moment feels like an eternity.

Message from a Sudanese group stuck in the area
between the Polish Belarusian border.

Message originally written in English.

Introduction

The following study contains first-hand data from people participating in the events described. We would like to thank all humanitarian organisations operating in the Polish–Belarusian border area and individuals working with them for providing us with reports of their interventions. Our sources include organisations, informal initiatives as well as individuals, often wishing to remain anonymous, so we do not mention them by name unless they have given us permission to do so. Special thanks are due to all those on the move who have chosen to share their own experiences with us.

Humanitarian workers and those working with them emphasise that the difficult context and ethics of their work often prevent them from obtaining more detailed information about the stories and situations of people on the move. During interventions, many are in such a poor psycho–physiological state that it is not possible to obtain more data without putting them at risk of retraumatization or making them feel that they owe humanitarian

organisations any answers to their questions by virtue of receiving material or legal support from them.

The described interventions and support provided to persons on the move took place on the territory of the Podlaskie and Lubelskie Voivodeships. For persons in Belarus, information is provided on the legal situation and access to procedures for applying for international protection in Poland and Belarus.

We hope that this brief outline of the context will help you to better understand the current dynamics of events in the border region with Belarus.

For additional questions and recommendations from individuals or organisations who might also be interested in receiving the reports, please contact wearemonitoring@gmail.com.

Definitions

At the end of the report you will find a list of terms and definitions we have adopted.



current number of deaths

52

Situation at the border

Residents of Podlasie region report that an increased presence of services, including the military and police, is still visible in the border areas. They draw particular attention to the presence of military vehicles driving along local roads – mainly carrying concertina razor wire towards the border, as well as armoured military vehicles, helicopters and horse patrols.

In one of the Border Guard announcements, there was an admission of the use of pepper spray throwers against a group of about 100 people on the other side of the Polish border fence. This is the first official mention of such a weapon used against migrants.¹ This equipment was delivered to Podlasie Border Guard posts at the end of 2021.² Foreigners staying in the strip between the Polish and the Belarusian border fortifications do not have

access to clean clothes or to any other possibility to neutralise the effects of the gas, so its use in this context carries an additional risk to health and life. Those in contact with the gas are exposed to prolonged pain and discomfort and, in the cold months, are also forced to choose between staying in soaked in scalding toxins clothes or undressing and consequently facing hypothermia

In October, according to information provided to us by residents, activists and volunteers, the construction of a second line of concertina entanglements intensified (more on this construction and its reception below, in the section dedicated to it).



Man behind the wall and concertina entanglements, September 2023. Photo from the Egala Foundation archive.

¹ <https://www.strazgraniczna.pl/pl/aktualnosci/12455,Pazdziernikowy-weekend-nielegalna-migracja-i-niebezpieczne-zdarzenia.html> [accessed on 13.11.2023]

² The footage includes a video illustrating the use of pepper spray throwers during drills. <https://infosecurity24.pl/sluzby-mundurowe/straz-graniczna/nowe-srodki-przymusu-bezposredniego-dla-strazy-granicznej-funkcjonariusze-zakonczyli-szkolenia-wideo> [accessed on 13.11.2023]

In October 2023, we received 3 further reports of fatalities at the border.

- **On 12 October**, the Belarusian media reported the death of a man from Afghanistan who was found in the Sistiema– the strip of land between the Polish and the Belarusian fences. The death was allegedly witnessed by his companions. According to their statements, quoted in the material, their colleague's health was gradually deteriorating.

Due to the subordination of the Belarusian media to authoritarian rule, we cannot verify this information.

- **On 22 October**, a man caught by Border Guard officers and the army soldiers after crossing the border died between the border line and the village of Białowieża. According to media reports, the foreigner, upon seeing the patrol, was supposed to start running away towards the marsh, but was caught and placed in a van.

The head of the Hajnówka District Prosecutor's Office, Jan Andrejczuk, quoted by the Interia portal, said that the captured person was taken to Białowieża. When the vehicle reached the village where the ambulance was waiting, the man died. Manslaughter investigation has been opened.³

- **On the morning of 23 October**, a patrol of the Railway Guard found the corpse of a young Syrian man by the tracks near the village of Dobrowoda, near Kleszczele. The case is being investigated by the Hajnówka prosecutor's office. Investigators assume that he may have died as a result of hypothermia, as he was half undressed..

On 26 October, a funeral was held at the Orthodox cemetery in Narewka for two men, a Yemeni and a Syrian, who went missing in February 2023. Their bodies were found in June by humanitarian workers walking by.

Quantitative summary October 2023

	groups	number of individuals	children (unaccompanied minors)	women (pregnant)
Total requests	140	588	21 (12)	36 (2)
Requests from Sistiema	21	192	12 (4)	24(2)
Aid provided	83	276	8 (7)	11 (-)
Reported Pushbacks	29	111	2 (1)	5(-)
Number of interventions			86	

³ <https://wydarzenia.interia.pl/podlaskie/news-smierc-migranta-w-bialowiezy-zmarl-w-aucie-strazy-granicznej,nld,7109089> [accessed on 13.11.2023]

Demographics and Trends

In the reported period (01-31.10.2023), we recorded requests for support from 588 people travelling in 140 groups. In comparison, in the previous month (01-30.09.2023) we recorded requests from 355 people in 69 groups, which is almost double the number. However, this is still significantly less than the 869 notifications in August 2023. In October, there were a total of 86 interventions – of which 31 in the first half of October and 55 in the second half. The lower traffic at the border until the middle of the month was also noticeable in the statistics of the Border Guard regarding the apprehension of “couriers” involved in assisting and organising irregular border crossings – according to subsequent announcements published on the website of the Border Guard Headquarters, 10 persons were apprehended on 1-15.10. and as many as 25 on 16-30.10.

At the same time, it should be noted that the scale of assistance provided (where possible) is comparable to the same period in the previous year – the total number of requests for assistance (from individuals) per month in 2023 was slightly higher, while the scale of assistance provided per month is slightly lower. This is due, among other things, to the fact that the number of requests we record is the sum of those coming in from both Belarus and Poland, and we are not able to provide assistance to people on the Belarusian side of the barrier as part of our activities. In October 2022, we received applications for assistance from 525 people and 355 people were assisted. In October 2023 (as mentioned above), we received requests for assistance from 588 people and 292 people received this assistance.



Photo from the Egala Foundation archive.

21 of the 140 groups reporting in October were, at the time of contact, located in the strip between the Polish and the Belarusian fortifications (Sistiema). These groups consisted of a total of 192 persons, including 12 children (4 unaccompanied minors) and 24 women, 2 of whom, at the time of contact, declared being pregnant. These numbers

are not complete and do not allow to estimate, even approximately, the actual number of persons staying in the Sistiema at that moment, but they do allow to identify decreasing and increasing trends and to note moments of increased migration activity in the area of the Polish–Belarusian border.

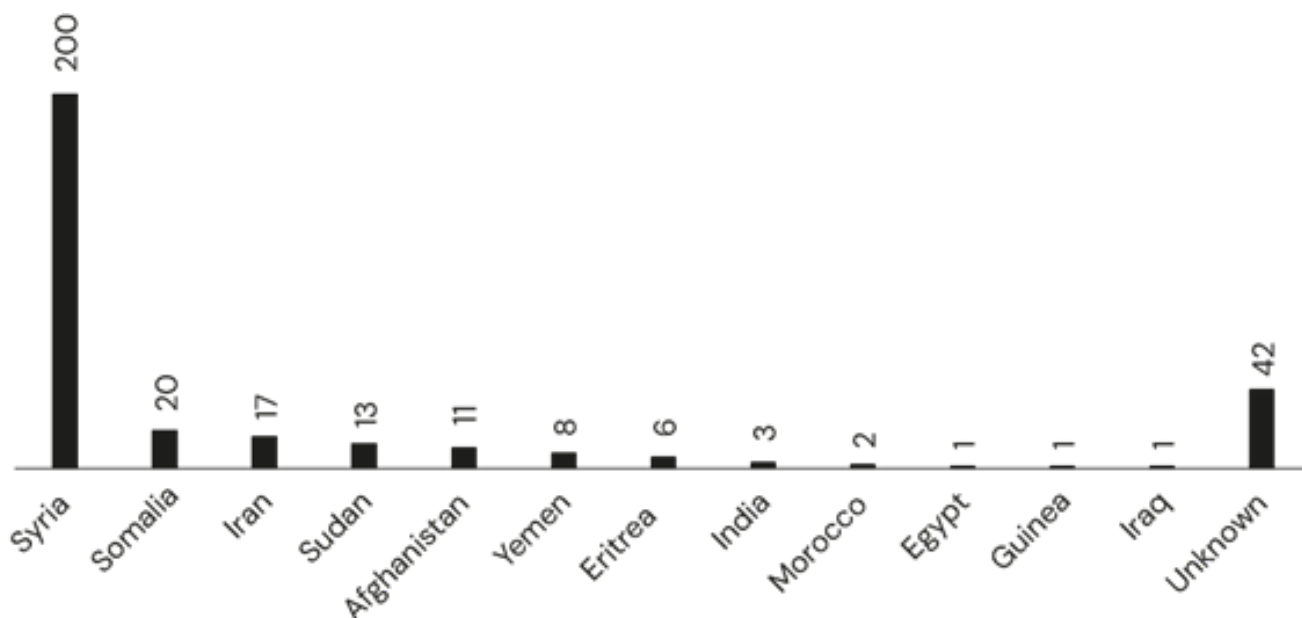


Figure 1. Countries of origin of people who reported needing support October 2023.

During the reporting period, the vast majority of people reporting a need for humanitarian assistance were invariably from countries in the Middle East. Syria, was indicated as a country of origin by as many as 200 people, or just over 34% of all those asking for support. The trend already evident since the end of July and the beginning of August of a decreasing number of requests from people coming from the so-called Horn of Africa countries continues. While in the second half of July – a period with less traffic – 46% of all requests came from people from that region, this is now only just over 4.6%. Particularly noticeable is the significant drop in the presence of people declaring Somalia as their country of origin in the Polish–Belarusian border region. In October, this was only 3.4% of all those reporting. This compares to over 16% in both September and August.

In October 2023, women accounted for 6.12% of the total number of applications, out of 588 people

reporting a need for border support Polish–Belarusian, there were 36. These figures are similar to those collected in September 2023, when women accounted for just under 8% of all notifications. The recorded decrease (by comparison, in the period between 5 May and 5 July, women accounted for 13% of all those reporting and 15% of all those reached by humanitarian organisations with material, legal and medical assistance) is typical for the autumn–winter period characterised by worse weather and thus much more difficult travel conditions. It is worth mentioning that during the reported period, 2 of all 36 women who approached us for assistance declared being pregnant.

The proportion of minors in the reported period is just over 3.5% among all those reporting a need for support. More than half, 12 out of a total of 21 minors contacted in October 2023, were travelling unaccompanied by a legal guardian or carer.

Humanitarian, medical and legal interventions

The humanitarian organisations and those working with them who provided us with information managed to deliver in-kind support to 83 groups comprising of a total of 276 people, including eleven women and eight minors, as many as seven of whom were travelling unaccompanied by a legal guardian or carer.

Four people, including one unaccompanied minor, were additionally provided with specialistic medical assistance thanks to the involvement of the medics from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and medics who are in Podlasie on a private, volunteer basis.

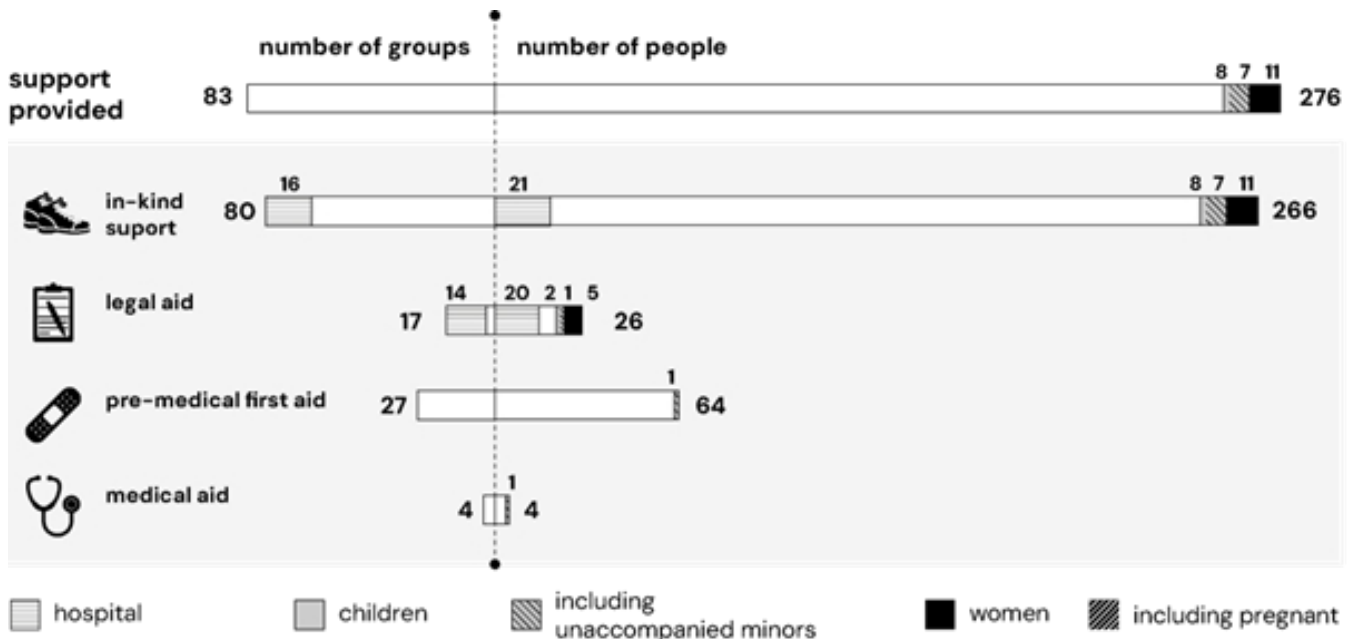


Figure 2. Number of groups and individuals given a form of support in the reporting period

Organisations providing people on the move with in-kind and medical support in the border areas took part in a total of 86 successful interventions. According to those involved, people in the forest most often ask for food, water and dry clothes. There are also requests to hand over mobile phones. Overwhelmingly, accounts from people contacting us for support report that during the pushbacks their telephones are being destroyed by people identified as Polish uniformed officers.

The largest groups that received in-kind support in our reporting period were 25, 19, 18 and 14 people, but these are isolated cases of people in such large concentrations. The vast majority of groups that we manage to reach with support are between 1 and 6 people. In interviews with those providing assistance, foreigners most often report that they cross the border in larger groups of just a dozen or a few dozen persons, which then separate on the Polish side.

Pushbacks and violence by services

	groups	number of individuals	children (unaccompanied minors)	women (pregnant)
Reported pushbacks	29	111	4 (1)	9
Reported violence Poland	10	48	2 (-)	-
Reported violence Belarus	3	26	-	-

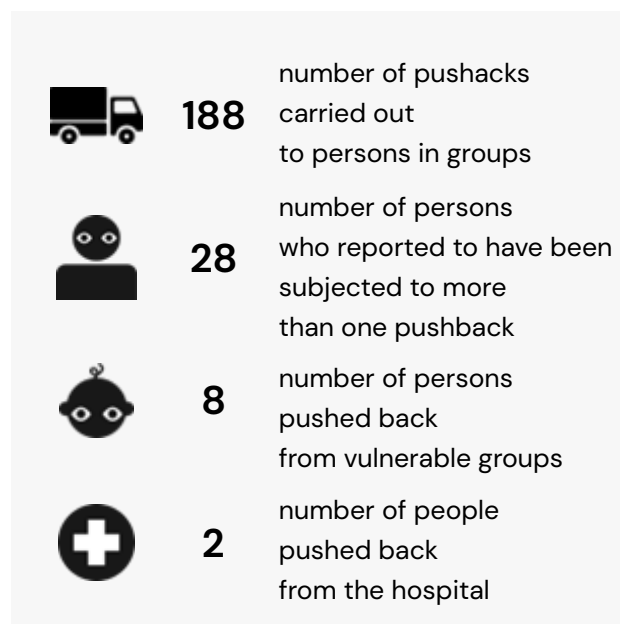
Reports of deportations perpetrated by Polish officers reached us from 29 groups. This information was collected during in-depth interviews, humanitarian assistance and through online communicators (in the case of groups who were deported before aid groups arrived or contacted us only after the deportation). It should be noted that the total scale of the phenomenon is underestimated in our statistics, as only a fraction of the groups report them back.

In October, 188 individuals reported a pushback experience. Among those, 28 informed that they had been pushed back more than once. We note that not all of these multiple pushbacks took place in October. In-depth interviews were conducted with two of those who declared an experience of deportation. The respondents indicated the total number of pushbacks they had been subjected to – not just in a given month.

One group of three men of Syrian origin reported that two had experienced five pushbacks each and one had experienced seven.

Two of the women known to have experienced pushback in October were travelling in a group of five. All were diagnosed with first degree hypothermia at the time of humanitarian intervention that took place shortly before they were caught and pushed back. During the intervention one of the women reported that she had been on the move for two months. She has a ten-year-old son who is currently in Germany. He arrived there in the same group he had previously travelled in together with his mother. It is likely that it was then when

the woman and the child were separated on the Polish side, and that the child, taken care of by his fellow travellers, continued on his way, while his mother was pushed back.



The third woman pushed back was a Syrian woman travelling with her father and brother. They were apprehended when they found themselves in a car that was presumably meant to take them out of the forest. The woman, along with a fourth man travelling with them, was taken to a border guard post from where she was later pushed back. There was no contact with her for some time. After another attempt by her brother to communicate with her, they managed to locate her. She was found in the vicinity of the Sistema, about 10 km from where he had been pushed back.

This is another testimony of Polish officers separating families, but also unrelated people travelling together and pushing them back either in twos or alone so that it is harder for them to find each other, making their journey more difficult.

One of the pushbacks that took place in October was experienced by the companions of a young man whom the Polish services were supposed to get out of the wetlands. After crossing the border in a group of nine, the Somali man was caught by the Border Guard and soldiers. He died during the transport – we describe this case above, along with other deaths in this month. According to the accounts of those who travelled with him,

We were arrested by a young man and girl from Poland. They sat us down on the ground. We lay down on the ground. After we were arrested, they brought pepper spray with them. Pepper spray bottles. We were on the ground. We were sprayed with pepper on our heads. We were on the ground and there was so much pepper that we could not bear it. They came back and searched our backpacks. Then the world dispersed. It rained a lot, and pepper in your head. Pepper became inside our entire body. We sat for about half an hour in the rain. We were searched again and he used pepper spray [again]. Then we were returned to the Belarusian border and the door was opened for us and we returned. It was our first attempt to enter Poland.

When he managed to cross the border again, he hid in the forest for several hours before being caught by the services once again. Trying to remain

Polish soldiers were hitting the people with the weapons they were carrying, on their head and on their stomach. We could hear screaming in the distance.

According to the man, after two pushbacks he no longer had the strength to make another attempt. He wanted to return to Minsk, which the Belarusian services would not allow. People who have experienced pushbacks, as well as those

But it was difficult the most when you wanted to leave the borders of the forbidden area in Belarus to Minsk. It was more difficult. I mean, I was ready to enter Poland 1000 times and not return to Minsk once because the violence in Belarus is stronger than in Poland.

The man decided to make another attempt to cross the border – this time the Belarusian–Latvian

Yes, it was in Minsk, right, I was about to enter Latvia, but they caught me 2 times and beat us with electricity ;(, Yes, sir, they deal with us as if we were animals not people.

they heard shots fired by the officers as they fled. A Syrian man was also witness to a shot fired by a Polish officer, in the direction of another fleeing man, who was detained in a group of twelve. We do not know what happened to the man towards whom the shot was fired.

At the beginning of October, we were also contacted by a man who first entered Polish territory at the end of August. In total, he was said to have stayed for more than three weeks in the strip between the Belarusian and the Polish border fence. This is how he describes his first contact with Polish service officers:

unnoticed heard the screams of those detained moments earlier:

who found themselves on Polish territory for the first time, often report that Belarusian officers force them to cross the border into Poland, allowing them to return to Minsk extremely rarely, often due to the very serious state of their health.

border. He was caught twice by the Latvian services.

During the interview, he confessed that he wanted to make another attempt to enter Poland, due to

the less severe violence used by the Polish services:

But I want to return to pepper [spray – WAM], which is better than electricity.



Figure 3. Number of persons who reported experience of violence by Polish and Belarusian services.

In October, 48 people reported experiencing violence by Polish services. It should be noted that only in some of the cases we get clear information on which specific services took the reported actions. One group, for example, emphasised that it was the military, and not the border guards, who were responsible for the beatings and pushbacks in their case. According to the accounts of the three men, the military threw them to the ground on several occasions during their detention, trampled their faces with their boots and cuffed their hands, most likely with zip ties. Asked if they were sure they were not border guards, they replied that they were not – according to their testimony, military men do not call the Border Guard and carry out pushbacks themselves by shouting to people to return to Minsk.

Another group reported that Polish servicemen beat them by aiming at their knees and ankles. We received photos from one of the men documenting the marks of the beating he and his companions received: bruises on the body and face, abrasions, bumps and scratches. We were also asked for help by a group of 22 people staying on the Belarusian side of the border. Among them were said to be two children, four women and one person with diabetes. According to their account, they had been in the forest for 35 days. The Polish officers allegedly destroyed all their phones, and the battery of the one from which they managed to make contact was almost dead. Among other things, the group asked for insulin for a sick companion. They wrote:

Polish police hit on his head and blood started flowing from his head. And they took him in the car to beat him.

The experience of violence on the Belarusian side was reported to us by 26 persons. Among them, people from the group mentioned above. Three other guys, travelling together (those who faced violence also from the Polish border guards who stood on their faces) reported that the Belarusian

officers pounced on them with dogs, brutally forcing them to make repeated attempts to cross the border. They also told of a colleague who had been bitten so badly by dogs that he ended up in hospital in Minsk.

Hospitals

According to the information provided by those involved in helping at the hospitals, there are more patients almost every day who have ended up there after crossing the border, sometimes several in one day. The most common injuries require a visit to the emergency department without further hospitalisation. In such cases, if patients wish to apply for international protection in Poland, this requires rapid action by volunteers or aid workers. This is because such patients are at risk of not being admitted to enter the procedures and as a result are deported to Belarus. In remotely conducted in-depth interviews and live interviews in hospitals, patients report numerous instances of violence by people they identify as uniformed service officers.

Lawyers' access to detention hearings has recently been obstructed, particularly at the court in Hajnówka. In spite of their powers of attorney, they are not informed about the planned dates of the hearings and some judges do not allow the lawyers to enter the courtroom.

Support workers in hospitals report further cases in which migrants without passports are sent to guarded centres. In such situations, alternative measures to detention are not considered, even if they have been able to be organised. We are

aware of cases in which the court also does not apply the grounds set out in Article 400 of the Act on Foreigners for refraining from placing a foreigner in a guarded centre due to his/her psychophysical condition, even when the patient's poor health condition is confirmed by the patient's discharge card from hospital. However, the lack of a clear indication by a doctor is interpreted as a lack of contraindications.

Pushbacks from hospitals

At the end of October, officers of the Border Guard Post in Białowieża took two young Eritreans out of hospital. We know from the men's legal representative that they had expressed a desire to apply for international protection in Poland, and their documents were delivered to the Border Guard post and accepted by the officer. After a day of searching, we received a message from them that they were staying in the so-called Sistema. Unfortunately this is not a one-off situation, pushbacks from the hospital have been occurring since autumn 2021.

Construction of additional razor wire barrier

Development of border infrastructure and its public perception

One of the elements of securing the Polish-Belarusian border against its unregulated crossing are the barbed wire entanglements (also called razor wire). Such wire in the form of a double helix is called concertina.

The first razor wire dam was erected in August 2021.⁴ At the time, it caused controversy – in the public debate there were claims that it posed a danger to people and animals⁵ and violated

a number of regulations – including, for example, paragraph 41 of the Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure on the technical conditions to be met by buildings and their location:

1. *Fencing must not pose a risk to the safety of humans or animals*
2. *The placing on fences, at a height of less than 1.8 m, of sharp-pointed items, barbed wire, broken glass and other similar products and materials is prohibited.*⁶



Dead doe. The cause of death was entanglement in concertina. Photo by K. Kiryła.

Source: <https://wyborcza.pl/7,177851,29065224,wajrak-i-dmitruczuk-na-granicy-w-meczarniach-gina-dziki-zwierzeta.html> [accessed on 13.11.2023 r.]

⁴ This was reported by Radio Białystok among other – see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR_T4aOv3Z4 [accessed on 13.11.2023]

⁵ The voices of scientists were collected in a short paper by Dr Paulina Kramarz, Prof. UJ from the Faculty of Biology of UJ – see https://nauka.uj.edu.pl/aktualnosci/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_Sz8leLOjYQen/74541952/149164311 [accessed on 13.11.2023]

⁶ Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure of 12 April 2002 on the technical conditions to be met by buildings and their location (Dz.U.2022.O.1225)

In late autumn, the wire was also rolled out along the shoreline of the Bug River (where the river forms the border between Poland and Belarus)⁷, which was protested by organisations involved in the protection of areas of natural value. In a letter addressed to the President of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of National Defence and the Director General of Environmental Protection, it was argued that the installation of the wire along the bank would have serious environmental and wildlife consequences – including for species protected by Polish and EU law (the Environmental Directive and the Birds Directive), while the concertina itself, due to frequent swells, could be carried away by the current and pose a danger to the surrounding area.⁸ In January 2022, the Director of the Regional

Directorate for Environmental Protection in Lublin also informed the Border Guard and the Minister of National Defence about the threat. The letter concerned three Natura 2000 protected areas: Poleska Dolina Bugu, Dolina Śródkowego Bugu, Dolina Dolnego Bugu.⁹ A month later, during a meeting of the Sejm Committee for the Protection of the Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry on 24.02.2022, the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Małgorzata Golińska, said that *despite the installation of barricades and concertina wire fences on the Polish–Belarusian section of the state border, the number of attempts [border crossings – WAM] did not decrease, which was supposed to be the reason for the decision to build the steel fence.*¹⁰



Concertina on Świsłocz river. Photo by R. Skibińska

⁷ https://www.lublin112.pl/estonscy-zolnierze-pomagaja-przy-budowie-tymczasowego-ogrodzenia-na-granicy-zdjecia/?galleryPage=1#1112_gallery_276826 [accessed on 13.11.2023]

⁸ https://www.bagna.pl/images/wazne_pdfy/2021.12.06_Zasieki_na_Bugu.pdf [accessed on 13.11.2023]

⁹ We have not been able to reach this letter, its content was reported by a representative of the Polish Society for the Protection of Birds at a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for the Protection of the Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry on 24.02.2022. – Record of the meeting:

<https://www.sejm.gov.pl/sejm9.nsf/biuletyn.xsp?documentId=8D97FA6D5D02E447C12588050032183E> [accessed on 13.11.2023]

¹⁰ Transcript of the proceedings of the Commission meeting, idem.

Once the steel fence was built along the border line (January–June 2022), the structure was topped with a coil of wire. The wire (at least along part of its length – we have no information on whether all of it) was tilted towards Belarus, so as to make it more difficult to climb the dam. In some places, mostly wetlands, where the construction of a fence would

be particularly difficult, wire entanglements were left in place (this is still the situation today on the rivers Leśna Prawa, Przewłoka, Świsłocz among others).

In the spring of 2023, an additional line of coils of concertina was laid along the fence (we wrote about this in the fortnightly report in August)¹¹.

Current state



October/November 2023. Photo by A. Kolber

In late summer 2023, the installation of another concertina line began – on the other side of the service road running right next to the fence.

A spokeswoman for the Podlaskie Branch of the Border Guard, when asked about this fact by the media at the end of October, replied:

Additional reinforcement in the form of three vertical reels of concertina were laid on the sections of the state border most at risk from illegal migration, i.e. sections under the official responsibility of the Border Guard posts in Mielnik, Dubicze Cerkiewne and Białowieża. Integrated engineering protection is installed on the border road strip. This is an additional element in strengthening the protection of our country's border, thus the external border of the European Union, Schengen and NATO.¹²

¹¹ Report for 10–23.08.2023

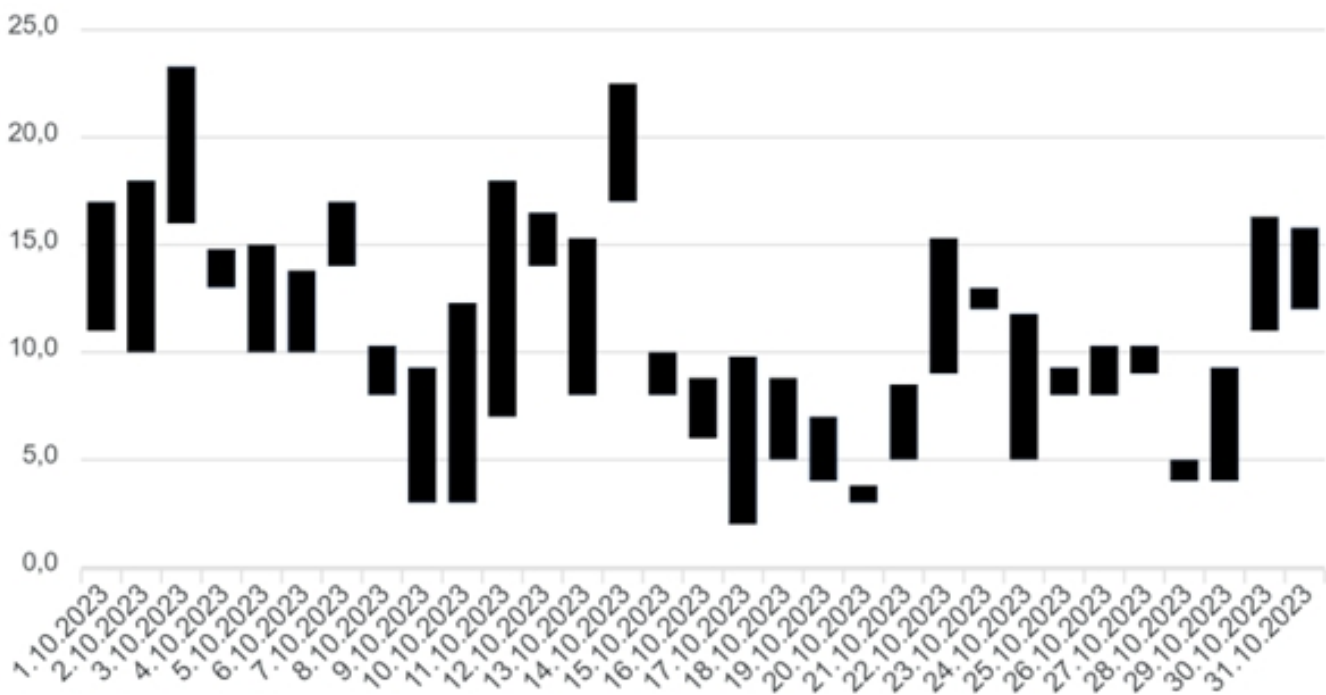
¹² <https://bialystok.wyborcza.pl/bialystok/7,35241,30349763,kryzys-na-granicy-polsko-bialoruskiej-pogranicznicy-plot.html> [accessed on 13.11.2023]

Meanwhile, volunteers and NGO workers and staff regularly document wounds resulting from falling into or becoming entangled in wires.

Below is an example from an intervention in the second half of October this year:

[...] everyone [in the group – WAM] had their hands, thighs or other parts of their body slightly injured by razor wire (after walking over the top of the fence, they still squeezed through the new concertina barrier) – we washed the wounds, left them disinfectant wipes for later and bandage plasters.

Temperatures by weather station Bialystok¹³



¹³<https://www.pogodowecentrum.pl/archiwum-pogody/bialystok> [accessed on 09.11.2023]

Definitions

Total requests – Total number of reported groups/persons on the move, located in Poland, Belarus, Lithuania or Latvia. It does not take into account persons staying in other European countries during the reporting period, as the report aims to illustrate the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border and the related migration route.

- **Groups** – individuals travelling together at the time of reporting and/or humanitarian/legal /medical intervention. These persons may or may not be related by family or social ties.
- **Individuals** – individual members of groups.

Children – all persons whose confirmed or declared age is 0–18 years

Unaccompanied minors – persons under the age of 18 travelling without an adult legal guardian, and therefore also minors travelling with older siblings or other relatives who are not their guardians under the law of Poland.

Requests from Sistiema – reports of groups/persons staying in the strip of land between the border fortifications of Poland and Belarus, commonly referred to as the sistema.

Aid provided – total number of people reached by organisations and entities operating in Podlasie who agreed to share information with us (GG + Ocalenie, unaffiliated residents and inhabitants of Podlasie, collectives, individuals, POPH)

- **Material aid** – support in the form of basic humanitarian aid packages – food, clothing, water, information
- **Legal aid** – support in procedures relating to the prevention of pushbacks and deportation and enabling the submission of an application for international protection
- **Medical aid** – professional support provided by medically qualified persons
- **Medical first aid** – support provided by people with basic rescue training, such as washing wounds or dressing trench foot

Reported pushbacks – pushbacks reported to us during the reporting period by persons who experienced them directly or witnessed them directly

Reported violence Poland – reported cases of violence experienced directly by persons on the road, the perpetrators of which, according to the victims' accounts, were members of the Polish uniformed services: Border Guard, Police, Polish Army, Territorial Defence Forces.

Reported violence Belarus – forms of violence directly experienced by persons on the road, the perpetrators of which, according to the victims' accounts, were people belonging to the Belarusian uniformed services

Number of interventions – number of humanitarian interventions undertaken by field teams in response to a report of a need for assistance or a chance encounter of persons on the road in a border area

Persons from vulnerable groups – vulnerable persons on the following grounds:

Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– minors– unaccompanied minors– persons over 45 years of age– senior citizens aged 60+
Medical reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– pregnancy– chronic illness– disability
Situational considerations* Protection Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– victims of sexual violence or subjected to– victims of gender-based violence– victims of torture– victims of human trafficking

*) virtually impossible to identify at this stage

Number of dead – number of persons on the road who died between August 2021 and November 2023 on the Polish side of the Polish-Belarusian border and those cases from the Belarusian side of which we are aware. It does not include all deaths in hospitals or car accidents, linked to the migration route. The data will be verified and supplemented. We expect that there may be data on more deaths from the period considered here as well.

Number of missing – persons whose disappearance has been reported by next of kin or companions on the road, with a declared lack of contact of at least two days.

Injuries from the wall – injuries which, according to the declaration of persons on the road, occurred while crossing the security at the Polish-Belarusian border