

JUNE 2025

Report from the Poland-Belarus border

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GRUPAGRANICA

Introduction

This study is based on first-hand data obtained from individuals involved in the events described. Our sources include organisations, informal initiatives, and individuals—many of whom prefer to remain anonymous. We only name organisations or individual activists when explicit permission has been granted.

Most of all, we extend our sincere thanks to all those in transit who chose to share their experiences with us.

NGOs, activists and others involved in the response stress that the challenging context and ethical considerations of their work often make it difficult to obtain detailed information about the stories and circumstances of people on the move. Many individuals are in such severe psychophysical condition during interventions that requesting information risks retraumatisation or may lead them to feel obligated to respond merely because they have received support.

The interventions and assistance described in this report took place in the Podlaskie and Lubelskie Voivodeships. For individuals in Belarus, only information on the legal situation and procedures for applying for international protection in both Poland and Belarus can be provided. No direct support is possible for NGOs operating in Poland. All names used in this report have been changed.

For additional questions please contact: dane@wearemonitoring.org.pl

Definitions

A glossary of terms and the definitions we have adopted can be found at the end of the report.

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Since 2021, we have been collecting reliable information regarding the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border. Your support will allow us to continue this work.

Demographics, trends and requests

In June 2025, we recorded requests from 336 individuals travelling in 195 groups. Women, like in the previous month, accounted for nearly 9% of the total number of reports: there were 30 women in total, three of whom were pregnant. Reports concerning children made up just over 6% of all requests for assistance (18 out of 21 children we came into contact with in June were travelling unaccompanied). The number of requests for support registered in June 2025 (336) is significantly lower than in previous years: 2024 (730), 2023 (665), and 2022 (838¹).

REQUESTS JUNE 2025				
	groups	individuals	minors (incl. UASC)	women (incl. pregnant)
Total	195	336	21 (18)	30 (3)
incl. in Poland	81	161	10 (9)	0 (0)
incl. from Belarus	71	101	8 (7)	21 (3)
incl. from Muharrama	19	45	3 (2)	4 (0)

In June, we registered reports² from 101 individuals contacting us from the territory of Belarus and from the area of *muharrama* on the eastern side of the border barrier. A total of 45 people were located in the *muharrama*, travelling in 19 groups. Among them were at least four women and three children, two of whom were travelling unaccompanied. Some of these individuals had been in the area prior to making their first attempt to cross the border barrier, while others had already experienced a pushback and were returned there by the Polish Border Guard. 56 people contacted from within Belarus, mainly from larger Belarusian cities.

¹ The data for 2022 covers the period from June 1 to June 28, 2022. This shift is due to the use of a different methodology at the time. Data was collected on a weekly basis.

² The figures we present do not allow us to estimate, even approximately, the actual number of people present in the area between the barriers during a given period. We publish them because they help identify upward and downward trends, as well as moments of increased migratory activity along the Polish-Belarusian border.

Eighty-six of the 336 total requests came from individuals from Afghanistan. During this period, 48 people from Eritrea, 34 from Ethiopia, 16 from Sudan, and 15 from Somalia also made contact. The country of origin was not determined for 94 individuals.³

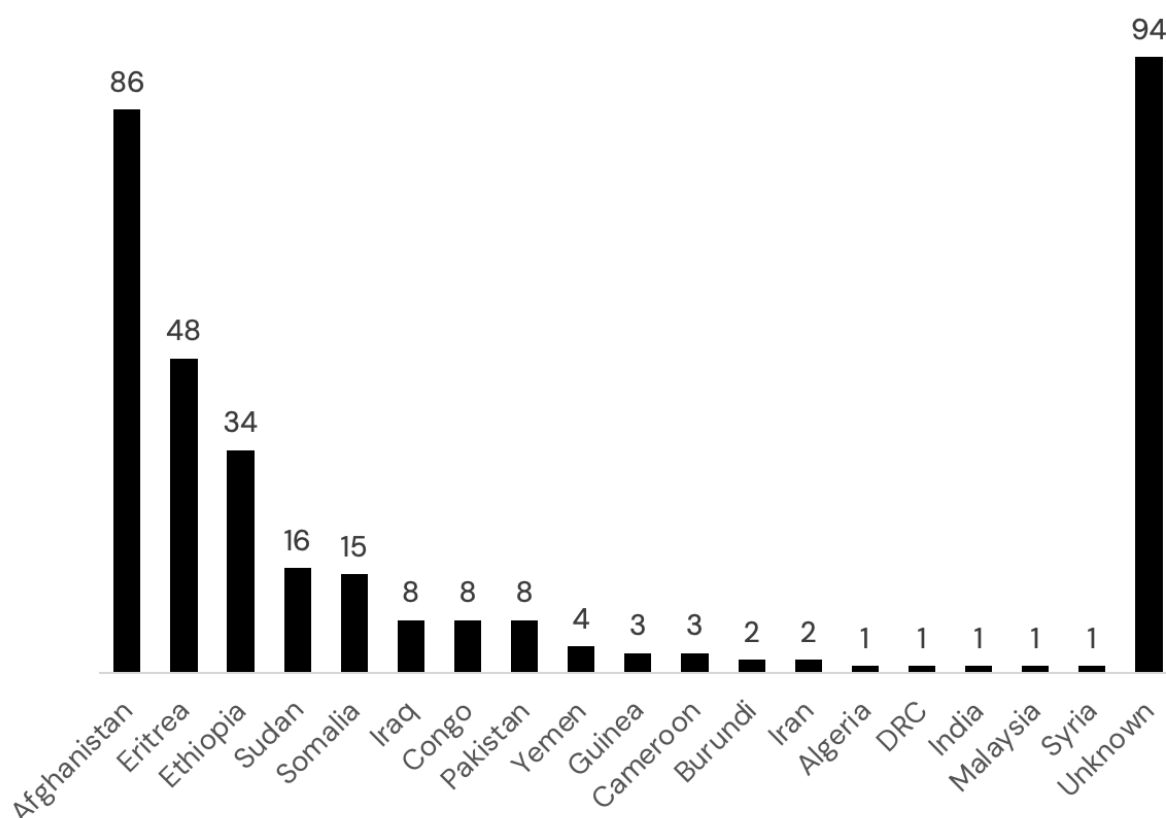


Fig. 1 Countries of origin of those reporting a need for support in June 2025.

Delivered assistance

The number of people supported by NGOs and activists remained at a similar level as in the previous month. In June, support was provided to 124 individuals travelling in 63

³ The largest group of individuals whose country of origin could not be determined consists of those contacting NGOs from the territory of Belarus, primarily from inland areas. Due to the inability of organisations and collectives operating in Poland to provide any form of support to them, demographic data on these individuals is not actively collected, and information about country of origin is recorded only if the person includes it in their request. Other cases in which the country of origin is unknown usually involve individuals who could not be reached during field interventions.

groups. Over 8% were children, all of whom were travelling unaccompanied. Eleven out of 61 field interventions carried out ended unsuccessfully.⁴

DELIVERED ASSISTANCE JUNE 2025				
	groups	individuals	minors	women
Total	63	124	10	0
Material aid	63	124	10	0
Legal aid	3	3	0	0
Medical aid	8	10	0	0
First aid	17	30	2	0
Hospital assistance		21	1	0
Number of undertaken interventions		61		
Number of successful interventions		50		

The total support provided to people on the move includes humanitarian field interventions, often accompanied by medical assistance, as well as legal interventions. In June, legal support primarily involved assisting people on the move in requesting an interim measure from the European Court of Human Rights, which – if request is granted – offers individuals a certain level of immediate protection against pushback.⁵

⁴ Failed field intervention most often means that it was not possible to reach the location indicated by people on the move in time. Such situations usually result from difficulties in determining the group's exact whereabouts and/or a loss of contact, which might be due to a discharged phone battery or the group being apprehended by authorities before support could arrive. In the case of some groups, it is possible to confirm that the individuals were pushed back, if they get in touch again, requesting support from the eastern side of the border barrier

⁵ A request for interim measure granted by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) generally protects individuals from being deported to Belarus for the period specified by the Court. In practice, this may enable them to begin administrative procedures aimed at regularising their stay. The average waiting time for the Court's decision ranges from a few hours to as much as 1–2 working days. In the meantime, as shown

Humanitarian interventions carried out along the Polish–Belarusian border usually take place in forested areas, which, combined with the frequent language barrier between people on the move and those providing assistance, significantly hinders communication. Factors that negatively affect the effectiveness of communication include limited visibility, stressful conditions, exhaustion, the need to remain silent, and/or the absence of a shared language on a communicative level. In such situations, translation apps serve as the primary communication tool, though their quality can vary greatly depending on the language pair. Languages less commonly represented among users tend to be translated less accurately, and some are not supported at all by popular online tools. An additional barrier is often the lack of cellular and internet network coverage, which limits the use of online translation services or options for remote language support. In situations requiring such support, interpreters cooperating with the MOVA Association are called upon, although connection difficulties may make this impossible. For this reason, in intervention notes, activists highlight cases where communication problems occurred.

A man from Pakistan, aged 25–30. In the forest for 10 days, after a pushback. Speaks almost no English, cannot read Pashto, so communication was very limited. Came from Pakistan, through Russia, arrived in Belarus. His right hand was wounded by razor wire; we cleaned it a bit, but he didn't want more. He cried during the dressing.

Excerpt from a field intervention report.

Two men from Afghanistan, approximately 25–35 years old. On the Polish side for three days, after two pushbacks. No English. Poor reception, so little communication. One of them had hands wounded by barbed wire. The other had very deep wounds on his feet (on the heel and on a toe). When we arrived, he was in poor condition, seemed semi-conscious, and we thought he wouldn't be able to walk. They received water and food, a power bank, as well as a set of clothes and shoes. The wound was not only deep but also dirty, full of flies. [...] The man couldn't put the shoe on, but he took it with him.

Excerpt from a field intervention report.

A young man from Pakistan, 22 years old, travelling alone. He was tired, thirsty, and hungry, but generally physically okay. He was overwhelmed. He told us he had been sent back to Belarus 25 times. Communication was very limited, even with the help of a translation app. We gave him hot soup and tea, a bottle of water, a food package, a power bank, shoes, clothes, and a small bag.

Excerpt from a field intervention report.

by recent practice, the person requesting to be granted the interim measure remains at risk of pushback, even if they are staying in a medical facility due to health issues.

In June, as many as one third — 40 out of all 124 people met during humanitarian interventions — were suffering from health issues. Ten were patients of the medical team from Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières – MSF). The remaining individuals received first aid.

A seventeen-year-old Afghan boy. He was experiencing severe pain in his foot after falling from a wall but was able to stand. A medic measured his blood pressure and administered strong painkillers, which stabilized his foot. We provided tea, food, a power bank, clothes, and water. The individual had been pushed back three times. [...] Then two more Afghans came. One of them had a cut on his hand from concertina wire.

Excerpt from a field intervention report

In the end, there were two men on site: one was 23 years old, the other possibly a bit older. Their general condition was good; they very quickly wanted to move on, although they were terrified and dehydrated. They were also severely injured by concertina wire (deep wounds on their hands and buttocks, with one having a particularly badly injured hand), and one had a sprained ankle.

Excerpt from a field intervention report

Four men from Eritrea in generally good condition. Dehydrated and slightly hypothermic. In Poland for three days, without food and with very little drinking water. One man complained of vomiting. All had trench foot, two in mild stage, two in moderate stage. In the forest in Belarus for about a week. They had attempted to cross the border several times (4–7 times).

Excerpt from a field intervention report

Hospital

In June 2025, at least 21 patients requiring hospitalization after crossing the green border were recorded in hospitals in Hajnówka and Białystok. Among them was at least one child. The vast majority of those hospitalized needed medical care due to orthopedic injuries. Many injuries to the lower and upper limbs resulted from falls from the border barrier—calcaneus fractures, leg fractures, joint sprains, fractures of the lumbar spine and pelvis, and fractures of the pubic bone.

Most patients, in addition to basic material assistance, received support from humanitarian organisation workers in requesting the aforementioned interim measure

from the European Court of Human Rights⁶. According to collected information, in June 2025, Polish border guard officers committed at least one pushback from a hospital.

Pushbacks and Violence⁷

According to the official response from the Border Guard to an inquiry submitted by Grupa Granica, Polish border guards carried out 2,317 pushbacks in June. A decision ordering departure from Polish territory was issued to 108 individuals⁸, while 2,209 people were expelled under the Regulation of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration of 13 March 2020. The largest groups affected were nationals of Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Pakistan.

In the same period, humanitarian organisations operating on the border recorded information about the pushbacks of 103 people. Among them were five boys travelling without a legal guardian and three women. Thirty-nine of these individuals experienced more than one pushback. A total of 304 pushbacks to Belarus were recorded in June.

I tried many times to get into Poland, but every time I was caught and beaten. I was deported to Belarus.

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Sudan

I entered Poland. The Polish military stopped me and locked me in a brigade with my five friends. We spent almost a night there. The dog was biting us all over. In the morning, they went to throw us into Belarus.

Excerpt from a conversation with a man staying in the *muharrama*

⁶ A decision issued by the ECtHR, in principle, protects individuals from being deported to Belarus for the period indicated by the Court and, in practice, may enable them to initiate administrative procedures aimed at regularizing their stay. The average waiting time for a decision from the Court ranges from several hours to even 1–2 working days. In the meantime, as recent practice shows, the person seeking interim measures remains at risk of pushback, even if they are staying in a medical facility due to health issues.

⁷ The quotes used in this chapter come from interviews conducted with people on the move, reports from non-governmental organizations working on the Polish–Belarusian border, and excerpts from messages sent by individuals on the move to NGOs and advocates. Quotes from text messages and reports that are not direct testimonies are appropriately described. Translations of quotes from in-depth interviews are based on consecutive translations and, as such, inherently include a degree of interpreter interpretation. Translations of messages and reports were carried out to preserve the original tone of the statements. Dates, locations, and details that could identify individuals have been removed from this work to ensure the anonymity of our interlocutors. All names have been changed.

⁸ Article 303b of the Act on Foreigners of 12 December 2013

PUSHBACKS AND VIOLENCE JUNE 2025

	groups	individuals	minors (incl. UASC)	women (incl. pregnant)
Reported pushbacks	49	103	5 (5)	3 (0)
Reported violence PL	19	48	2 (2)	0 (0)
Reported violence BY	20	39	1 (1)	1 (1)
Reported violence N.N.	11	12	1 (1)	5 (0)

In June, 39 people – including one unaccompanied teenager and a pregnant woman – reported experiencing violence at the hands of Belarusian authorities. Violence by Polish officials was reported by 48 people, including two unaccompanied children. Some of these individuals – 25 out of all 74 people who, in June, reported cases of beatings, intimidation, dog attacks, or other forms of inhuman treatment in the border region – stated that they had experienced violence on both sides of the border barrier.

I tried more than 20 times in the forest. The border guards beat us up and the Belarusians detained us without food or drink.

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Sudan

Over the past months, he has been transported to the forest multiple times, to the muharrama, and subjected to pushbacks multiple times – he can't remember how many. He was also beaten repeatedly by uniformed officers on both sides of the border. When asked about the violence he experienced, he shakes his head and repeats several times, "very bad, very bad". He has now been in the forest for eight days, two of them on the Polish side. During this time, he hasn't eaten and has only drunk rainwater. In those eight days, he was pushbacked three times. During the pushbacks, he was beaten and pepper sprayed on the Polish side. He said that Polish officers, while chasing them, threatened them with weapons, he called them "fake guns" – they aimed at them as if to shoot, just to scare them. He lost his phone and now has someone else's, one that belonged to another person.

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a solo-travelling Eritrean

Upon arrival, it turned out that there were four men. They were in good psychological condition. They were hungry and stated that they had neither eaten nor drunk anything for the past three days. One of them had a small, dried wound on his leg, reportedly from a bite by a dog used by Polish officers. Their clothes were wet, and one of them had a large tear in his jacket, allegedly caused by a bite from a dog used by Belarusian authorities. They said they had been beaten by the Belarusians and showed photos of one of them with a swollen face. They also said they were forced in Belarus to swallow up to 12 pills, after which they lost consciousness. They were also forced to drink ketchup. The perpetrators seemed to take pleasure in the suffering of those they were tormenting. The Polish authorities reportedly treated them better, but destroyed their phone.

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of four Afghan men

In Poland for three days. Soaked, a bit scared, but overall not in the worst condition. One had a leg bitten by a dog, three days ago, in Belarus. In addition, many small wounds, two deep ones already scabbed over and healed. The other had a mark from a rubber bullet. "Poland shotgun, Belarus boxing." A white bruise, scraped skin.

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of two Sudanese men

They were pushed back multiple times – between three and six times. They experienced violence on both the Belarusian and Polish sides. They assessed that the Belarusian forces were more brutal, hitting also with their elbows. They knew of a case of a Pakistani man who lost an eye as a result of a beating, and another person who lost their teeth. Polish officers beat them less, but more often used tear gas against foreigners, especially during pushbacks. They also destroyed phones and checked their contents, demanding passwords. [...] The men showed early signs of trench foot – treated. One of them had signs of being beaten by Belarusian officers – swelling around the nose, bruises and scratches on the face – treated. One person had an ankle injury – treated.

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of five Eritreans

“Welcome back, brother” – Khalid’s repeated pushbacks⁹

23-year-old Khalid from Kurdistan ran his own business in his country of origin. Due to widespread corruption in the region and the ties between the mafia, militia, and local politicians, he was subjected to threats and blackmail. As he recalls, it made his life difficult because he was forced to hand over a large portion of his earnings to the blackmailers. He was detained at least once, spending two months in custody. Ultimately, fearing for his life, he decided to leave the country.

He began his journey to Poland on 24 September 2024. At the time of the interview, he reports that during five months of attempting to cross the Polish–Belarusian border, he experienced approximately 20 pushbacks. In the interview, he mainly describes the most recent one.

Khalid recalls that his group was travelling with someone he referred to as a “leader”. As a result, for part of their time at the border people on the move didn’t know exactly where they were or where they were going, depending entirely on the guide. Without exception, all of them managed to pass through the Belarusian barbed wire into the *muharrama* multiple times. Khalid emphasises that the Polish border barrier posed greater difficulty. They tried to cross the border at multiple locations.

And we were struggling to cross the Polish border because of the fence. It was hard to climb and most of the time the two of us were climbing and the police was on our head and they were catching us. And sometimes all of us were able to climb and try to cross it and they were catching us again.

We were crossing not only from one location: we were starting from Minsk, we were starting from a house near the border, we were starting from Brest.

Khalid was travelling in a group of around 20 people: eight were from Afghanistan, four from Iraq, and eight from Iran. Among them was a Kurdish couple with a three-year-old boy, as well as a teenage boy from Iran who was travelling unaccompanied. There were three women in the group in total. Additionally, one of the men from Afghanistan was described by Khalid as a person with a disability. Due to a previous operation, he had a metal implant in his leg, which affected his mobility:

Whenever they were trying to cross the border, most of the time because of him they could not. [...] He was slow, he couldn’t walk properly or run.

⁹ The interviewee’s name has been changed.

Khalid describes how crossing the border typically looked in his case: getting past the first barrier would take him around 2 to 3 hours, and then the police would arrive within a maximum of three minutes.

The last fence that we are crossing: we call it a hard wall. And it takes us 2 to 3 hours to cross it, to cut the fence or break the wall. And when we are crossing it takes a maximum of 3 minutes for police to come to the place or to catch us. Maximum 3 minutes. So otherwise you are not able to cross.

Khalid also describes the behavior of Polish border guards during previous crossings:

Sometimes they know that you are crossing, but they are letting you come, they are making you tired. Like they are letting you enter the territory of Poland and to just use pepper spray against us. And to take our phones, to break our phones, to take our clothes, to take our wallets, to take our stuff, shoes and jackets. And later on they are sending us back to the Belarusian area. And it's just about luck sometimes.

Khalid is not certain of the exact date of his most recent pushback. He began crossing the border on 27 March 2025, around 9–10 p.m. (nine days before the interview). At that point, the group split into two smaller ones, with 10 people in each. They planned to cross the barrier in two locations about 500 meters apart and then meet again on the Polish side. Khalid's group was the first to cross the border. The remaining 10 people – including a Kurdish family with a three-year-old child and the leader – waited at a distance.

Shortly after crossing the barrier, all of them were detained by officers. Khalid recalls that it was just before dawn.

The second group... The smuggler was with the second group, and he was staring, he was looking at us when we got caught. We were far from each other, 500 meters. And when we got caught, he thought about it, like: "they are busy with them, like we had a chance to cross, so let's cross it". They crossed it, but they got caught also. When they gathered us together, they asked if we knew each other, and we said: 'yes, we know each other, and we are a group.'

According to Khalid's account, two vehicles arrived at the scene, each carrying 5 to 6 officers dressed in light brown or light green uniforms. After some time, they called officers dressed in black¹⁰, who arrived in a black vehicle. Khalid distinguishes between the behaviour of those in light-colored uniforms and those dressed in black.

¹⁰ Khalid refers to them using the word "commando".

The officers and the Polish border guards were good if you compare it to the commandos or the forces that were wearing the black outfit and uniform. [...] the only thing that the Polish border guards [did when] they were stopping us... It was so cold when they were telling us: 'lay down on the ground and put your hand on your head or on the sky.' And it was cold for us and we didn't get used to this coldness and this weather. And when the second forces, army came to us they were violence and whoever they wanted to beat, they were beating them. [...] only the families, [...] they were not beating them. We were like a towel for their hands. They were moving us as they wanted. They were beating us as they wanted[ed]. We weren't able to defend ourselves at all.

[...] they are huge. They are different if you compare them to the officers. And they are coming with a black car, and they are not in our height, physically they are bigger than us, and when they are telling them, [something] like: "maybe this guy is a smuggler, or that one is a smuggler", so he will just hang you as like a towel, like you are not able to do anything, and he will beat you, he will do a lot of things to you physically, like beating you so much.

From that moment, the entire group of twenty people remained together. Khalid and one of his companions spoke English fairly well, which – according to Khalid – led the officers to suspect them of being smugglers. As a result, they were beaten more severely than the others. The guards also checked whether they spoke Russian. Khalid didn't speak Russian, but since he had been in Belarus for nearly six months, he understood the question. During the detention, he also asked for international protection several times, but as he recalls, his requests were met only with mockery from the officers.

For sure, we asked them [for asylum] a couple times – not couple times, more than a couple times. But they were making fun of us.

Because me and my friend, we were able to speak English... That's why they were thinking that we are the smuggler. And that's why they were using their violence against us more than the people that were with us.

The officers referred to by Khalid as "commandos" used batons during the beatings. Khalid reports that the beatings were carried out in a way intended to avoid causing fractures, targeting parts of the body less prone to bone injury. They also did not beat families.¹¹ The officers also confiscated and destroyed all phones except one – Khalid believes this phone was deliberately left so the group could contact their leader. They

¹¹ In his account, Khalid mentions a total of three families: three married couples, including one with a three-year-old child.

also took the money they found: €100 from Khalid and €500 from the Afghans, Iraqis, and Iranians.¹²

They would just leave one phone to contact our smuggler and to find a way to go back. And they were stealing our money also. They were taking our money, especially euro currency. The only currency they would leave was ruble, Belarusian ruble. Otherwise, they were taking euros.

Despite being apprehended in the Grodno region, the entire group was transported to the area near Brest in four vehicles, which Khalid believes were operated by officers in black uniforms. They were brought to a location Khalid describes as a lake, where they crossed to the other side using a rubber boat, in groups of five or six. Khalid recounts that the officers were able to pull the boat back toward the Polish shore. He is unsure whether the boat belonged to the authorities or was simply there by coincidence.

There were four cars that took us to Brest and when we got down from the cars, there was a boat and we needed to cross the lake by boat. And we don't know if the boat was provided by Polish border guards or if the boat is already there. So we don't know how, but we were crossing the lakes by boat.

The last time we tried it was from the lakes. The deepest one. And we had a boat, like an airboat, like the small one. There was not enough space for us, for me and my friend. And we decided to swim. But my friend wasn't able to swim very well, but I was helping him. If I were not beside him, he would have drowned already. And I was able to save him. And our life was at risk. But after all, we managed to cross.

He also describes the mechanism used by the authorities to control the boat.

[...] they were using something to pull – like when we were crossing, they were bringing back the boat by pulling it. They were tightening it with something, I don't know exactly what they were tightening it with. And they were telling us so we need to push ourselves to cross the lake and we will pull it back again to send five more, four more. So we were sending back group by group because the boat was small.

Khalid believes they were allowed to return using the boat only due to the presence of a three-year-old child.

¹² Based on the interview, it is unclear whether the €500 came from each of the groups or was the total amount.

You know they were not that polite to send us back by boat. They were not behaving that good. Because we had a kid, we had a child with us and we had a family. That's why they decided to send us back by boat. Otherwise they were just pushing us to the water.

On the shore, using the only phone that had been left with them, they managed to contact a person whom the interpreter described as a "smuggler". Since the phone soon ran out of battery, Khalid does not remember the exact location or the name of the body of water. He recalls that it was raining at the time.

On their way back to Brest, they reached the border fence, where they were noticed by Belarusian officers. According to Khalid, the officers greeted them with the words "Welcome back, brother". Fearing they would be beaten if they told the truth, the group said they were heading to Poland when asked about their destination. The Belarusian officers reacted with violence, summoned reinforcements, and subjected Khalid and his companions to prolonged abuse.

When they said "welcome back, brother" they started beating us and the worst things started from there. If you compare it to Polish [services], it was... There was a huge difference, it was worse. And they were using all the equipment of violence to us. And they were releasing their dogs. And they were calling other forces to come [...]. And most of us passed out when they were beating them, they were knocking [us] out, like there was no chance to stand. And they were throwing us back to the water. And we have different pictures from different groups [that] I can also provide you and send. And we know that they killed people during this pushback. Before us and during this time they're still killing people. Not from my group. But from my group we were knocked out, we were passing out [...]. They were pushing us back to the water. So... they were releasing their dogs to us and it was a tragic story and I cannot... You cannot even imagine it.

[...]

They were using the huge sticks, like the constructions using it to build the buildings, they... It was a disaster. They were hitting it to our head, like they were using it to hit us, hit it on our head.

Khalid adds that the Afghans who had separated from the group earlier — hoping that at least some of them would manage to get past the Belarusian barriers unnoticed — were also caught and beaten by officers using an object, likely a shovel.¹³

According to Khalid, the families travelling with the group were separated, but remained

¹³ During the conversation, the interpreter was unable to find the right word for the tool, which he described as follows: "There's a metal with a stick to push the dust or something like that".

within a short distance of one another. The couple with a child was treated more leniently and was not subjected to physical violence. However, the two women travelling with only their husbands were subjected to both physical and sexual violence. Khalid reports that, because the women did not have children, Belarusian officers questioned whether they were in fact married. He states that officers grabbed the women by the hair, threw them to the ground, and then proceeded to beat and harass them. Khalid recalls that the officers mocked the women, asking whether they would have sex with them. When the women agreed out of fear of being beaten, the officers insulted and verbally abused them.

One family had a child. [...] They went back to Minsk without beating. But there were two other families. They didn't have a child, so they [Belarusian officers] didn't believe that they were a husband and wife. The majority were two women and they asked them to have sex. When they accepted... They were scared to be beaten. They were accepting it... And they were calling them: "You are a whore. You are not the wife of this guy. We will beat you also".

[...]

They were sending the families back. Especially that family that they were together with the child. But there were women with us. And there was their husband also. And they were making us separate. And they were taking the women to another place near to us and they were asking them to do sex with them. To do something else. And abusing them. And when they were accepting it, they were calling them "you are a whore. You are not... you are not saying the truth. You are not the wife of this guy and you are a whore". Especially in this... in a slang way. And they were pulling them by their hair on the floor. Pulling their hair on the floor and beating them also.

Khalid reports that the violence against the women took place near the camp. He also states that the women were filmed before the beating and assault occurred. He refers to the group of perpetrators as members of the Wagner Group. According to his account, they were responsible for the most brutal acts of violence.

And if you compare Wagners to Belarusian or Polish border guards they were... Polish and Belarusian border guards [...] were angels if you compare it to Wagner's army. They were like hell, like devils against us.

Deaths

On June 20, "Dziennik Wschodni" reported that the prosecutor's office had identified the person whose body was pulled from the Bug River on May 19. The funeral took place in early July at the cemetery in Koroszczyn.

In our most recent report, we mentioned six people on the move who died by drowning in the Bug River. Their funerals were held in recent weeks. On June 12, a funeral was held at the parish cemetery in Janów Podlaski for two people on the move who drowned in the Bug; their bodies were found on April 15 near the village of Stary Bubel (Lublin Voivodeship). Just under a month earlier, on May 15, a man who had also drowned in the Bug River was buried at the Tatar cemetery in Bohoniki. His body had been found on April 18 near Janów Podlaski. Between the beginning of March and the end of June, a total of eight bodies of people on the move were recovered from the Bug River (two of them on the Belarusian side).

In addition to the confirmed border deaths described above, during the same period — by the end of June 2025 — the Border Death Monitoring Team received reports and testimonies concerning four more people who died on the move, whose identities and circumstances of death have not yet been verified. The team also reports that, by the end of June, at least 98 people had died as a result of the border policies of Poland and Belarus.¹⁴

Definitions

Total requests — The total number of reported groups/persons on the move, located in Poland, Belarus, Lithuania or Latvia. It does not consider 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 — number of groups that consist of 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 — number of individual members of groups.

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

¹⁴ The list of people who have lost their lives as a result of the border regimes of Poland and Belarus — created and continuously updated by the Border Death Monitoring Team, along with a description of the methodology — is available at: <https://wearemonitoring.org.pl/lista-zmarlych/>.

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*.

Muharrama — a term used by Arabic-speaking people on the move for the strip of land located between the Polish border barrier and the fortifications on the Belarusian side. *Muharrama* in Arabic means 'forbidden'. People on the move also use the longer term المنطقة المحرمة "forbidden zone". In Polish, this area is commonly referred to as *Sistiema*.

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. Including support at the hospital.

Legal aid — support in procedures relating to the prevention of pushbacks and deportation and enabling the submission of an application for international protection. Including support at the hospital.

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.

Aid in hospital – material and/ or legal aid

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

Reported violence PL — 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 BY — 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.

Number of deceased — all known victims of the border regimes of Poland (also acting as a member state of the European Union) and Belarus are individuals who died along the Eastern European migration route, on the Polish-Belarusian border, and on its both sides. Cases of people who died outside of these areas but whose deaths are connected to the attempt to cross this particular border are considered individually by the Border Death Monitoring Group (BDMG), in order to avoid the arbitrary inclusion or exclusion of specific individuals. The data continues to be verified and updated. It is expected that, over time, additional information may surface regarding further deaths, including from the period covered here.

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.

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 and over
Medical reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- pregnancy- chronic illness- disability
Protection Needs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- victims of sexual violence- victims or persons subjected to gender-based violence- victims of torture- victims of human trafficking

* virtually impossible to identify at this stage