

Dispersal of migrants by the Polish military at Bruzgi / Kuznica checkpoint¹

On November 16, 2021, agents of the Polish law enforcement agencies attempted to violently disperse a group of migrants who had accumulated on the Belarusian-Polish border near the Bruzgi checkpoint.

During the dispersal, an arsenal of all kinds of special means was used, which caused serious harm to the health of migrants, among whom there were many children and women, including pregnant women. In particular, the Polish security forces used water cannons, tear gas, flash-noise grenades, in some cases chemical irritants were sprayed with water cannons, causing lacrimation, coughing, burns of mucous membranes, eyes and skin (*photos 1, 2, 3; video 1-9*).

Deltamethrin was the main component of the chemical mixture seized from the scene of the incident, according to an analysis carried out by the State Forensic Science Committee of Belarus. It is an insecticide, a chemical compound used to insect control and is highly irritating.

After the incident, around ten migrants applied for medical help, incl. due to burns from exposure to a chemical. Several employees of the Belarusian border service were also burned (*photo 4; video 10*).

As a result of the use of special equipment, numerous film crews of foreign and Belarusian media, covering the incident from the scene, also suffered. In some cases, journalists fell under the jets of water cannons when they were not in the crowd of refugees, which does not exclude the purposeful use of special equipment by the Polish security forces against media workers.

At the same time, from Poland, journalists, as well as doctors and representatives of public associations, are still denied access to the territory near to the border with Belarus. Those who dared to approach this zone are immediately detained by Polish law enforcement officers, taken to the police station, and a heavily fined. A striking example is the recent detention and fining of the journalists of the French edition of the RT TV channel.

The actions of the Polish military clearly violate a number of international and bilateral norms and agreements, including on interaction in the border zone. The use of special equipment near and across the territory of a sovereign state requires a proper legal assessment with all appropriate measures against the provocateur.

The Belarusian side is initiating an investigation of the irresponsible provocation of the Polish authorities with the involvement of international organizations.

¹ Additional pictures and video recordings can be downloaded here – <https://disk.yandex.by/d/vj1MmyxvNLZUKg/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%8C%D1%88%D0%B0%20-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%20%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%86%D1%81%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2>

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11

