

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 16 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On 7 December 2021, the Security Council held its 8919th meeting, with the participation of Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In the ensuing discussion, the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations falsely accused the Republic of Lithuania of incidents of mistreating refugees at the Lithuanian border with Belarus. We would like to draw attention to the fallacious nature of these allegations.

It has been widely acknowledged within the international community that the situation on the European Union border with Belarus is not a regular migration crisis, but a direct result of the instrumentalization of migrants by the current regime of Belarus. The Belarusian authorities have been deliberately pushing people through the European Union-Belarus border, cynically putting the lives of men, women, children and the elderly at risk for political purposes.

We strongly condemn such exploitation of innocent people by the Belarusian authorities and deplore the loss of innocent lives.

This hybrid attack orchestrated by Belarus not only uses people as weapons; the spread of disinformation is also an important part of the regime's tactics against Lithuania and other affected European Union member States in the region. A recently published report provided new evidence that the Belarusian Committee of State Security (KGB) was involved in the migration crisis manufactured by Minsk and used fake social media accounts to create tensions. The social media group recently removed a number of these fake accounts.

We reiterate our calls upon the Belarusian authorities to stop the instrumentalization of migrants and to respect and implement their international principles and commitments, including in relation to the protection of migrants' human rights and the provision of adequate care to people lured to the European border by coordinated disinformation efforts.

We would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rytis **Paulauskas**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

