

Russia to Transport Dozens of Migrants to Last Open Finnish Border Checkpoint

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The Russian-Finnish border in the Murmansk region. **Lev Fedoseyev / TASS**

Russian authorities will transport 55 asylum seekers who were waiting to cross the now-closed Salla border crossing with Finland to the last open crossing in the north of the Murmansk region, its governor [announced](#) Friday.

Another 200 foreign nationals who were unable to cross the border have decided to stay in Russia and will be provided with a bus connection to St. Petersburg, according to Murmansk Governor Andrei Chibis.

The announcement comes just one day after the Murmansk region [declared](#) a heightened state of readiness after Finland said it would close all but one border crossing between the two countries.

Related article: [Russia Boosts 'Security' After Finland Closes Border Points](#)

Finland accuses Russia of allowing undocumented migrants — primarily from the Middle East and Africa — to cross their common border in a destabilization ploy.

Helsinki joined NATO this year, ending decades of non-alignment, in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Chibis said on Friday that the situation at all border crossings with Finland — including at Lotta, the only functioning crossing — was “under control.”

“Together with law enforcement agencies we have taken all necessary measures,” the governor [wrote](#) on Telegram.

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