

Finland says thousands of migrants are seeking to enter via Russia

HELSINKI, Feb 20 (Reuters) - Finland said on Tuesday that "thousands" of third-country migrants were waiting to cross the border onto its territory from Russia.

Finland closed all crossings on its 1,340 km (830 mile) border with Russia late last year amid a growing number of arrivals who lacked valid documents to enter the European Union. Helsinki accuses Moscow of funnelling migrants to the border, a claim the Kremlin has denied.

"We have information that thousands of people on the Russian side are waiting to get to Finland," Interior Minister Mari Rantanen told a news conference, adding that this represented "a threat to society".

Rantanen declined to say how Finnish authorities had obtained the information.

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