

**NATIONAL
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MANAGEMENT
REPORT

**CHILDREN WITHOUT A FUTURE:
THE MILITARIZATION OF CHILDHOOD
IN BELARUS**



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INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, Belarus has found itself in a situation where the political regime led by Aliaksandr Lukashenka uses the security forces to cling to power and actively involves children and youth in the militarization processes. While in democratic societies, childhood is associated with development, learning, and socialization, in Belarus, it is increasingly being shaped into an experience of militaristic values and ideological loyalty to the Lukashenka regime.

Examples from various regions of the country – from “open house days” in schools and kindergartens to specialized military-patriotic classes and clubs – demonstrate the systemic nature of this process. These are no longer isolated activities but a deliberate state policy, reinforced by government decrees, programs, and ministry initiatives.

The purpose of this report is to examine the scale and forms of military indoctrination of children in Belarus, identify the authorities’ motivations, compare the situation with international standards for the protection of children’s rights, and assess the long-term consequences for society.

By 2025, Belarus has become a country where even childhood is subordinated to the regime’s survival strategy. What seemed unthinkable just ten years ago has now become the norm. Schoolchildren learn to assemble rifles, children in kindergartens march to military songs, and teenagers spend their summer vacations in military camps.

Against this backdrop, some representatives of the democratic forces continue to call for negotiations aimed at easing pressure on the Lukashenka regime. Others suggest waiting for the situation to resolve itself. Neither stance fully acknowledges the scope of the crisis facing Belarus – a crisis exacerbated both by passive inaction and by actions that undermine the regime’s isolation.

The consequences of such actions were aptly described by Dzhokhar Dudayev:

« If the cowardice of today’s fathers is called caution, a time will surely come when the slavery of their children is called loyalty.”

CHAPTER 1.

WHY THE LUKASHENKA REGIME TARGETS CHILDREN

"At first, no one had been able to imagine where these creatures came from, but the problem was soon solved: they were the puppies whom Napoleon had taken away from their mothers and reared privately. Though not yet full-grown, they were huge dogs, and as fierce-looking as wolves."

George Orwell. Animal Farm



The 2020 protests became a turning point. Young people took to the streets and demonstrated that they were ready for change. Lukashenka saw a threat that could not be ignored. His response was to capture children's minds before they learned to ask tough questions.

In addition, following the events of 2020, Belarus's security personnel training system encountered a severe shortage of recruits. Interest in specialized educational institutions

plummeted, leading to a persistent lack of applicants and unmet enrollment targets. As a result, the very foundation on which the regime rests – its repressive apparatus – was put at risk.

Belarus's security apparatus faced a dilemma. On one hand, intellectually engaged young people showed no interest in pursuing careers in the country's security forces, while strict qualification standards further limited the recruitment of less capable candidates.

On the other hand, there were risks and threats to the Lukashenka regime associated with having individuals capable of independent thought and decision-making within the security services.

This dilemma was resolved through a mechanism of negative selection. In fact, a system of negative selection in specialized educational institutions was introduced about two decades ago. But after 2020, the situation with admissions to higher specialized institutions deteriorated even further.

For example, according to the Ministry of Defense's *Military Information Portal*, in 2021, the minimum passing score for one of the most academically demanding programs – the Air Defense Faculty – was 120 out of 400 possible points, with a competition ratio of 0.45. For the Communications and Automated Control Systems Faculty, it was 127 out of 400. The Internal Troops Faculty had a passing score of 101 out of 300 possible points, with a competition ratio of 0.86.

A moment came when the selection criteria themselves became a serious threat to the regime's repressive apparatus. There were enough "loyal" candidates to fill the quotas of specialized institutions, but they could not overcome the intellectual threshold – which was already lower than that of other universities. By his Decree No. 2 of January 3, 2023, Lukashenka removed this last remaining obstacle¹.

The dictator's decree allowed admission to specialized higher education institutions WITHOUT EXAMS for applicants with a grade of 6 ("six") on their basic education certificate. This applies to:

- those who have completed specialized military-patriotic classes in general secondary education institutions and have mastered the curriculum of the optional course "*Ready to Serve the Motherland!*";
- those who have completed specialized military-patriotic classes in general secondary education institutions and mastered the curriculum of the optional course "*Young Border Guard*";

- those who have mastered the content of the educational program of additional education for children and youth of a military-patriotic profile with an increased level of training in the educational field, topic, academic subject, or academic discipline on the territory of military units;
- graduates of the Minsk Suvorov Military School, the Special Lyceum at the University of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, the Special Lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, and cadet schools.

The quota for such candidates may reach up to 30% of the recruitment plan.

This decision was extremely beneficial for the regime in all respects. Such candidates tend to think only in terms of templates, clichés, and imposed narratives, while uncritically accepting whatever the leadership does – even if it amounts to a crime.

Three key factors help to instill this dogma. The first factor is that, due to their mental abilities, such individuals are simply less capable of correlating their actions with the letter of the law. The second is immersion from childhood in a distorted worldview that divides reality into simplistic binaries: heroes on one side, and enemies or traitors on the other. The third is the perceived boundless superiority of those who possess batons and weapons and have unlimited power over people.

This is the only explanation for why young representatives of any law enforcement agency often behave in a rude and arrogant manner, without fear of responsibility for their actions. They were lifted up the "social ladder" and placed in positions where, in a state governed by the rule of law, they would have been deemed professionally unfit.

The regime perceives Belarusian children as its most important resource, guaranteeing its future survival. Quality selection and competition are abolished. Personnel are cultivated and educated.

¹ Website of the President of the Republic of Belarus. Decree No. 2 of January 3, 2023: [source](#)



A poster dedicated to the military-patriotic clubs of the internal troops

However, by 2022, a critical new factor drove the large-scale militarization of children and adolescents: the Lukashenka regime's active preparations for potential direct involvement in a "hot" war alongside Russia. The indoctrination of minors became a central element of this strategy.

Reflecting this shift, the Council of Ministers of Belarus approved the *"Program for Patriotic Education of the Population for 2022–2025"* (Decree No. 773, December 29, 2021). This document formalized a systematic approach to military indoctrination targeting young people².



A typical Knowledge Day in one of the Belarusian schools

² National Legal Internet Portal of the Republic of Belarus: [source](#)

CHAPTER 2.

SYSTEM OF FOSTERING LOYALTY TO THE REGIME

“Nature wants children to be children before they are men. If we try to pervert this order we shall produce a forced fruit that will have neither ripeness nor flavor and that will soon spoil. Childhood has its ways of seeing, thinking, and feeling that are proper to it. Nothing is less sensible than to try and substitute our ways. Let childhood ripen in children.”
Jean-Jacques Rousseau



2.1 Militaristic Events

Pro-government media continuously publish reports on the ideological indoctrination of children.

At an “open house” in Kopyl, the local police station put children in a police van, handed them

weapons, and allowed them to take aim³. The local newspaper enthusiastically called this “patriotic education.” But for parents and independent observers, it looked very different – their children’s childhood was being hijacked, and minors were being directly involved in military culture.

³ Euroradio, 2025: [source](#)

Such events are not isolated. In December 2023, high school students were shown special equipment and firearms in Vileika⁴. In 2024, schoolchildren in Hrodna were taught how to disassemble Kalashnikov assault rifles⁵. In Minsk, AMAP (riot police) held master classes where children held weapons in their hands and listened to stories about the “heroic deeds” of the special forces. Regular visits to military units and law enforcement agencies are an

important part of so-called military-patriotic education.

Each school prepares annual reports on its activities in this area. An analysis of one of these reports showed that among a large number of events held, 57% were related to themes of war, death, and self-sacrifice, 39% were connected to similar topics, and only 4% of events were exclusively devoted to peaceful themes.



Kalashnikov assault rifle shooting competitions

Activities aimed at militarizing the minds of minors include military games, drill training, patriotic events at monuments and memorials, solemn oaths, flag presentations, the storage of weapons or military uniforms in schools, and their display to children. For example, in March 2023, Belsat reported that pro-Russian activist Uladzimir Habrou, who heads *Skif*, a military-patriotic center for special training of pre-conscription youth in Rechytsa, donated a new exhibit to a local school museum⁶ – a sledgehammer from the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company that is a well-known symbol of war crimes.

Rituals, games, and a sense of community play an important role in programming children. Children are placed in formation with active military personnel. Stylish uniforms, beautiful rituals, belonging to a select group, and direct contact with weapons that can take human lives

deform the developing mental consciousness of adolescents. They are placed in a privileged position relative to their peers.

For instance, the Ministry of Education has issued guidance on the organization of flag-bearing groups in general secondary schools. School principals issue orders to appoint the main and reserve members of the flag groups. Such orders mirror the orders of military units regarding flag-bearing groups⁷, approving the regulations for the flag group. Only appointed students and the military instructor have the right to receive the flag. Training periods are set for the flag groups, and competitions are organized for them. All rituals, from receiving the flag to handing it over to the school principal, precisely replicate the same rituals in military units. Such rules did not even exist in the Soviet Pioneer and Komsomol school organizations.

⁴ BELTA, 2023: [source](#)

⁵ RTR-Belarus, 2024: [source](#)

⁶ BELSAT, 2023: [source](#)

⁷ Order of a secondary school director



Into the general “pack” through rituals

Although teenagers do not legally belong to armed formations and law enforcement agencies, inscriptions

on uniforms and caps that claim the opposite are used to program their consciousness.



Signs of affiliation with the Internal Troops clan. Inscription on the back and emblem on the chest

Even sporting events in Belarus increasingly carry a militaristic tone: “*Snow Sniper*,” “*Defender of the Fatherland*,” and others⁸.

These events allow children to physically interact with firearms, presenting them as exciting props rather than dangerous tools. Some children

attending these events express a desire to pursue a future in the military, raising concerns about the influence of early militarization on career choices and worldviews. Joint participation in events with military personnel further normalizes military education for children.

2.2 Examples of Militaristic Events

For children aged 9 to 10, the game “*Zarnichka*” (“*Little Lightning*”) was created. Participants are called “*oktyabryata-zarnichniki*,” a reference to the Soviet-era youth organization *Little Octobrists*, which still exists in Belarus. Even in this game,

children are taught that they are part of a unit, with specific roles assigned to them. These roles are preserved as children progress from one level of military-patriotic education to the next as they grow older.



Participants of the military game “*Zarnichka*” (uniforms designed to grow with the child)

An example of such role assignment can be seen in the application from the Secondary School No. 3 in Stolin for participation in the district stage of the national patriotic sports game “*Zarnichka*.” According to the application, for instance, ten-year-old Yaraslau was assigned the role of sapper, while nine-year-old Safiya was assigned the role of medic.

According to the organizers’ instructions, each squad must represent a specific branch of the armed forces with an emblem in the form of a patch. Each squad must also wear identical uniforms. Most leaders of these squads aim to make the uniforms as close as possible to real military patterns.

⁸ Vitsebsk Regional Organizational Structure of DOSAAF – Official website: [source](#)

⁹ Application from the State Educational Institution “Secondary School No. 3” of Stolin

For children aged 11 to 14, the game *"Zarnitsa"* (*"Lightning"*) was created. The roles held by children are called *"pioneers-yunarmeytsy"*

(*"young army members"*). This age group is further divided into two subgroups: 11–12 and 13–14 years.



Participants of the military game *"Zarnitsa"*

In the 2025 final national games of *"Zarnichka"* and *"Zarnitsa"* held at the training ground of the 38th Separate Air Assault Brigade, 280 children participated¹⁰. However, this number does not reflect the full picture. In addition to the finals, there are qualifying events and preliminary rounds. For example, in Vitsebsk Region, the main regional education department ordered 130 Zarnichni for the regional final, of whom 50 were aged 9–10¹¹. The regime officially claims that more than 35,000 schoolchildren participate in such games annually.

NATIONAL MILITARY-PATRIOTIC GAME *"ORLYONOK"* AND TOURNAMENT *"VYZOV"*

The *"Orlyonok"* (*"Little Eagle"*) game is organized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defense of Belarus, involving children aged 14 to 16.

As in previous cases, each 10-person squad has roles assigned from commander to medic¹². Games are conducted on the premises of military units. For example, by order of the Vitsebsk Regional Education Committee, the 2025 *"Orlyonok"* game was held at the 103rd Separate Guards Airborne Brigade.

For tenth-grade students, the games become much more serious and are called tournaments, such as the *"Vyzov"* (*"Challenge"*) tournament. The regime considers that by this age, teenagers are ready for activities like tank maneuvers.

The skills practiced by high school students in these tournaments are useful exclusively for warfare. Below are photos and screenshots from the *"Vyzov"* tournament, taken from the official Telegram channel of the Ministry of Defense of Belarus.

¹⁰ Letter from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus

¹¹ Letter from the Main Department of Education of the Vitsebsk Regional Committee

¹² Regulations on the conduct of the national military-patriotic game *"Orlyonok"*



Tank maneuvers at the “Vyzov” tournament



Simulation of torn bodies during exercises. “Vyzov” tournament

NATIONAL MILITARY APPLIED GAME “PRORYV” (“BREAKTHROUGH”)

According to the game’s regulations, it is intended for students of higher education institutions¹³. The Ministry of Education of Belarus is listed first among the organizers, followed by the Ministry of Defense.

The game includes overcoming assault courses, constructing fortifications, moving artillery pieces, forced marches, and operating UAVs.

Thus, we see that military training and ideological indoctrination cover children and youth from nine-year-old schoolchildren to university students.

2.3 Specialized Classes and Schools

Belarus has established an extensive network of educational institutions where minors are introduced to so-called military-patriotic education. For example, as of today, there are nine cadet schools in Belarus – in Brest, Homiel, Hrodna, Mahiliou, Minsk, and two each in Vitsebsk Region and Minsk Region. Nearly 1,800 teenagers study there. In 2023, 74% of their graduates enrolled in military universities¹⁴. However, military education is not limited to specialized institutions; general education schools are now also involved in this process.

In particular, general education schools are increasingly opening specialized classes with a military focus. In Minsk alone, by 2024, 173 military-patriotic classes had been established. The number of students enrolled in these classes doubled in just one year. In the 2024/2025 school year, Vitsebsk Region had 96 military-patriotic classes with a total of 1,846 students. Across Belarus, by 2024, about 4,000 schoolchildren were enrolled in 337 military-patriotic classes operating within 220 schools¹⁵. Some educational institutions have separate subdivisions, such as the *Pre-Conscription Training Center* of Secondary School No. 4 in Navapolatsk.



School assembly. Knowledge Day, September 1. Secondary School No. 3, Astraravets

¹³ Regulations on the conduct of the national military applied game “Proryv”

¹⁴ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

¹⁵ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

In addition to specialized groups, almost all students are exposed to mass military education. In particular, students in grades 10 and 11 study a subject called *"Pre-Conscription and Medical Training."* This course includes a module titled *"Fundamentals of Military Affairs,"* which is allocated 42 hours of instruction (in the 2024/2025 school year, the number of hours was doubled)¹⁶.

To organize military training, the Ministry of Education purchased 191 multimedia shooting ranges for secondary schools for the 2024 school year, allowing every student to practice shooting¹⁷. The regime is also working to introduce and staff positions of military-patriotic education instructors in every general secondary education institution (GSEI) [schools] and specialized secondary education institution (SSEI) [specialized colleges].

These positions were introduced in GSEIs on August 1, 2021, and in SSEIs on August 1, 2022. It should be noted that the practice of introducing such instructors into schools began after the 2020 protests, when the Lukashenka regime realized it had completely lost control over the minds of the younger generation. Already on September 2, 2020, the Ministry of Education amended Resolution No. 224 *"On the Key Aspects of Organization and Remuneration of Pedagogical Staff"*, granting military-patriotic education instructors the right to carry out pedagogical activities during working hours as part of the implementation of educational programs.

From this moment, a purge of schoolteachers began in Belarus. Military-patriotic education instructors played a key role in this process, acting as informers and monitors.

In recent years, the Ministry of Education has become the main driver of the militarization of Belarus's education system and has achieved significant "success" in this direction. For example, in Vitsebsk Region, 254 military-patriotic education instructor positions have been established, 93% of which are filled¹⁸. Of these, 147 are over 50 years old, and 89% are men. This is explained simply: the majority of such instructors are retired officers, many of whom are staunch advocates of the Soviet way of thinking.

Orders, directives, and instructions from education departments and school principals transmit a single narrative. To quote verbatim: *"Organize the recruitment of candidates for the position of military-patriotic education instructor from among retired officers or those planning retirement due to age."*

Overall, the situation across the country as of May 31, 2023, looked as follows. In general secondary education institutions, 1,729.5 positions for military-patriotic education instructors had been established, of which 1,604.05 were filled¹⁹. The coverage of instructors, for example, in the Minsk Region reached 96.8%. Among the appointed instructors, only 17.8% had no prior military service or military education.

In institutions offering vocational and specialized secondary education programs, the situation was as follows. In 223 colleges, 202 positions were established. In Minsk Region, 100% of the positions were filled, in Brest Region 96.8%, in Homiel Region 92.3%, in Hrodna Region 53.3%, and in Vitsebsk Region 66.7%.

To fully grasp the scale of the work, it should be noted that methodological associations of relevant specialists have been created at district and city levels, along with 39 resource centers for military-patriotic education. On the National Education Portal, sections have been created such as *"For the Military-Patriotic Education Instructor"* and *"Catalog of Resources and Materials."*

It is common practice for certain military units to act as sponsors of general education schools. For instance, in Vitsebsk, Secondary Schools No. 25 and 40 are supervised by Military Unit 5524 of the Internal Troops under the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Secondary School No. 45 by the 103rd Vitsebsk Airborne Brigade; Secondary School No. 14 by the Ministry of Emergency Situations; Secondary Schools No. 16, 33, and 46 by the Police Department of the Pervomaisky District Administration; Secondary School No. 12 by Customs; and Gymnasium No. 8 by the Investigative Committee of Belarus in Vitsebsk Region.

¹⁶ National Education Portal, 2025: [source](#)

¹⁷ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

¹⁸ Resolution of the Main Department of Education of the Vitsebsk Regional Committee

¹⁹ Theses of the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus

In addition to military-patriotic classes, other forms of student organization exist for militaristic indoctrination. In the 2024/2025 school year, Vitsebsk Region had 70 military-patriotic groups

with 620 students and 14 military-patriotic squads with 173 students. By early 2023, Belarus had a total of 968 military-patriotic interest groups with over 14,500 students participating.



September 1. "Lesson of Peace" by the 38th Separate Air Assault Brigade

Thus, the regime is consistently expanding the militarization of children. Tens of thousands of schoolchildren undergo training for military

service, effectively making military-patriotic education one of the key components of educational policy.

2.4 Military-Patriotic Summer Camps

In addition to militaristic indoctrination during the school year, children are exposed to it in extracurricular activities. During the summer holidays of 2023 alone, 736 military-patriotic camps operated in cooperation with military units and security agencies (up from 583 in 2022), hosting nearly 27,000 children (about 21,000 in 2022). Of these, 98 camps were located on

military bases (48 in 2022), hosting nearly 2,800 children (around 1,600 in 2022)²⁰. By 2024, military-patriotic camps were planned to "host" over 30,000 children²¹.

Today, almost every military unit in Belarus runs military-patriotic camps on its territory. A classic example is the 49th Radio-Technical Brigade of the Armed Forces of Belarus.

²⁰ BELTA, 2023: [source](#)

²¹ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

This brigade hosts camps called “Sokol” (“Tercel”) and “Brigada” (“Brigada”), each session lasting two weeks. For example, the “Brigada” camp accommodates 25 schoolchildren per session. Additionally, the 49th Brigade organizes field

training sessions with tenth-grade students from Urytskaye Secondary School. During coverage of events involving children in the camps, they are compelled to share their impressions on camera.



Military-patriotic camp “Brigada”

An important point is that children giving comments for the Telegram channel are referred to as “wards of the military-patriotic camp.” During wartime, this term meant that the child had lost their parents and was raised by the collective they joined. This underscores the regime’s intent to marginalize parents in the upbringing process, preventing them from imparting viewpoints alternative to the officially approved narrative.

The core program of children’s stay in such summer camps is primarily based on military training, namely: drill, firearms, engineering, and medical training; obstacle courses; learning military regulations; demonstrations of weapons and military equipment; instilling military discipline; marching songs and military rituals; meetings with officers and veterans; “lessons of courage”; and screenings of war films. Children are often taught to handle weapons directly (for example, assembling/disassembling a rifle under instructor supervision).^{22,23,24,25}

²² Babruisk City Executive Committee. Official website: [source](#)

²³ Pastavy District: [source](#)

²⁴ Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus. Official Facebook page: [source](#)

²⁵ State Educational Institution “Secondary School No. 10 of Rechytza.” Official website [source](#)



Children in formation alongside active military personnel

Orphans and children from vulnerable families are particularly emphasized in the militarization process. In 2020, the police gave orphans from Radashkovichy rides in a police van and allowed them to play with grenade launchers²⁶. Since 2022, such activities have become regular under the Belarusian Children's Fund's project *"Paths of Memory"*²⁷.

In addition to military-patriotic camps, it is also common practice for each session of a regular children's summer camp to dedicate one day to visiting a military unit. When this is not possible, military personnel come to the children's camp themselves. According to official data, around 2,000 students from educational institutions in the city of Brest and Brest Region visited the 38th Separate Airborne Assault Brigade over three days.

2.5 Military-Patriotic Clubs

In recent years, Belarus has established an extensive network of so-called military-patriotic clubs. This large-scale initiative began with Lukashenka's Decree No. 160 of May 4, 2022, *"On the Development of Military-Patriotic Clubs."*

The activities of children's military clubs are conducted according to programs approved by the Ministry of Education. Members engage in various training areas, and upon completion, receive a certificate of readiness for military

service. In terms of status, these clubs are equivalent to specialized military schools.

By 2024, in Minsk alone, more than 53 military-patriotic clubs united around 3,000 students. In Minsk Region, at least 126 military-patriotic clubs operate, with over 3,000 students²⁸. There are even more military-patriotic clubs in Minsk Region (at least 126), which also have more than 3,000 schoolchildren²⁹.

²⁶ Minskaya Pravda, 2020: [source](#)

²⁷ Belarusian Children's Fund. Official website: [source](#)

²⁸ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

²⁹ BELTA, 2024: [source](#)

In the 2024/2025 school year, Vitsebsk Region had 62 military-patriotic clubs with 1,415 students.

Many of these clubs operate under the auspices of various security agencies, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and State Border Committee.

On June 1, 2025, a new MIA military-patriotic club called "Vostok" ("East") opened in the village of Aleksandryia, based at Military Unit 6713³⁰. According to the official statement of Mikalai Karpiankou³¹, Commander of the Internal Troops of the MIA, the MIA of Belarus has created about

300 clubs for children, "training" approximately 8,000 children. Children are recruited into these clubs through schools and local educational institutions.

To effectively indoctrinate children, an atmosphere of complete immersion in the life of a particular agency is created. Symbolism plays an important role: children are dressed in military uniforms that closely resemble those officially worn by the respective agency. Their uniforms, insignia, and patches are made to closely imitate the real attributes of military units. Even items such as the club's flag and a form of oath are preserved with precise similarity.



Junior members of the military-patriotic club of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

In order to prevent teenagers from acquiring alternative knowledge and values, their education takes place away from their families. An interesting fact is that, on the one hand, parents are relieved of responsibility for the upbringing and worldview formation of their children, and on the other hand, they are influenced through their children. This method was practiced during the years of the Hitler Youth.

The training program is divided into basic and advanced levels, and graduates receive certificates of preparation for military service, which equate them with cadets and students of military schools. These certificates provide benefits when applying to military universities, which is an additional incentive for teenagers and their parents.

A positive image of military life is used to promote the clubs. For example, classes include firearms training, participation in forced marches, and field training. Active participants are rewarded with awards, certificates, and badges, which creates the appearance of success and recognition.

Recruitment for the clubs begins at age 11. Training programs vary by age group. Students aged 11-13 study at a basic level, while those aged 14-17 study at an advanced level, which includes more hours and disciplines. One of the compulsory subjects is firearms training. Teenagers learn how to disassemble and assemble an automatic rifle, as well as how to load a magazine in accordance with current military standards.

³⁰ <https://t.me/vrmvdrb/52471>

³¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csCnM-aTgZk>

At the end of the school year, military field training is organized. Graduates take exams in drill, firearms, and physical training, as well as a written test with a focus on history questions. The final results are evaluated by an attestation commission, which is

created by order of the commander of the military unit overseeing the club. After that, certificates of completion are issued. Classes are conducted by officers responsible for specific areas of combat training in the military unit.

2.6 Youth Patriotic Education Centers

The list above is by no means a full account of the efforts the regime is making to prepare the younger generation for war.

As it turned out, this was still not enough. The country is to operate a *National Educational and Wellness Center for the Patriotic Education of Youth*. This state educational institution

was established by a personal decree of Lukashenka³².

According to the plan, the center's processing capacity will be 5,000 children per year, and, including the summer tent camp, 7,000 children per year. The center has been built and will operate within the Brest Fortress.



Prospective plan of the Patriotic Education Center

The institution is a budget organization subordinated to the Ministry of Defense. Work was financed by "voluntary" donations.

The center's main task is the in-depth study of the history of wars on the territory of Belarus and the cultivation of loyalty to the current regime and its symbols. No other goals of study or education related to peaceful development or orientation toward the future of the Belarusian state are provided.

Thus, at taxpayers' expense, an institution is being launched that prepares children for a future war.

Events are also being held to reprofile a growing number of state educational institutions toward child upbringing. For example, the *State Educational Institution "Physical Culture and Sports Center for Children and Youth of Navapolatsk"* is currently being transformed into the *State Institution of Additional Education "Center for*

³² Information note on the establishment of the National Educational and Wellness Center for the Patriotic Education of Youth

Military-Patriotic Education and Physical Culture for Children and Youth of Navapolatsk."

In 2025–2026, the number of children participating in military-patriotic activities at this institution is planned to reach 20% of the total.

In summary, there is a large-scale militarization of the Belarusian education system underway. Through military-patriotic games, specialized classes, summer camps, clubs, and patriotic education centers, the authorities form in children a habit of military discipline, familiarize them with handling weapons, and cultivate a sense of belonging to an "elite" group. Significant attention is paid to rituals, uniforms, competitions,

and symbolism, which create the illusion of heroism and the prestige of military service.

The process includes physical and psychological involvement, reduces the family's role in shaping a child's worldview – especially for children from vulnerable groups – and influences future career choices. The use of educational infrastructure, summer camps, and clubs makes militarization all-encompassing, turning it into one of the key components of Belarus's educational policy.

As a result, the younger generation is not merely informed about military service but systematically prepared for it, which raises serious concerns regarding children's rights, their psychological development, and their freedom to choose a life path.

2.7 New Technologies for Killing People

Within the framework of so-called military-patriotic education, in addition to ideological indoctrination and general military training, special attention is paid to preparing minors for modern, in-demand military specialties. For example, specialized classes where children learn to operate combat drones have opened in School No. 64 in Minsk and in the Biaroza District of Brest Region.

"It is precisely from the school bench that children develop a love of aviation – in this case, unmanned aviation. Children pick up these skills faster [...] Sometimes children even suggest to us how a particular aircraft can be used," openly asserts Dzianis Dudkin, Head of the Department for the Use and Development of Unmanned Aerial Systems of the Armed Forces of Belarus³³.



A member of the military-patriotic club "Tsirkon" learns to pilot a drone under the guidance of a military instructor

³³ BELTA, 2025: [source](#)

"Little children's hands, holding the controller, merge with this technology and perform wonders," Dudkin also noted³⁴. They merge with the very technology that Russian troops are using in the war against Ukraine.

For example, at the military-patriotic club *"Tsirkon"* in Hrodna, a two-stage methodology has been developed to train young UAV operators.

The first stage is theoretical training and work with reconnaissance drones. The second stage trains FPV drone operators on simulators and in practical lessons³⁵.

One club member admitted in an interview with propagandists that at first it was scary and

unclear, but in practice, girls learned faster and piloted drones more deftly³⁶.

Meanwhile, the first town in Homiel Region where children began to be taught drone operation at the local DOSAAF (so-called *"Volunteer Society for the Assistance to the Army, Aviation, and Navy"*) was Mazyr, proudly reported by the local district newspaper³⁷.

As investigators from the Russian outlet THE INSIDER have learned, hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren in Russia have already been involved in the development of drones for the needs of the so-called "special military operation" under the guise of educational clubs³⁸. Now this direction is being implemented in Belarus as well.

³⁴ BELTA, 2025: [source](#)

³⁵ GRODNO PLUS, 2024: [source](#)

³⁶ GRODNO PLUS, 2024: [source](#)

³⁷ MAZYR NEWS, 2024: [source](#)

³⁸ THE INSIDER, 2025: [source](#)

CHAPTER 3.

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE: THE CHIEF SUPERVISOR, CONTROLLER, AND IDEOLOGIST

"Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression."
Haim Ginott



Militarization is reinforced by powerful ideological indoctrination. Textbooks are regularly rewritten to suit the political agenda of those in power. In 2023, Minister of Education Andrei Ivanets announced that a complete revision of teaching materials had been carried out and that three publications on the genocide of the Belarusian people during the war had been prepared for the new school year – not by professional historians, but in collaboration with the Prosecutor General's Office³⁹, whom Lukashenka entrusted with the task of

hammering historical myths, hastily concocted by the creators themselves, into the minds of children.

School administrations and education departments, in turn, have to report systematically to the Prosecutor's Office.

The Prosecutor's Office supervises the implementation of legislation on the organization of military-patriotic education in general secondary education institutions.

³⁹ BELTA, 2023: [source](#)



Prosecutors regularly conduct systematic inspections in this area. Based on the inspections, recommendations are made to eliminate violations of legislation on the organization of military-patriotic education. These recommendations are sent to education departments for corrective action.

For example, during one such inspection, the Prosecutor's Office of the city of Navapolatsk⁴⁰ discovered the following shortcomings:

- students in grades 1–5 were not included in meetings with veterans of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus;
- no trips were conducted to military unit 5530 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus;
- information on websites, social networks, and accounts was not updated in a timely manner to inform parents about military-patriotic education.

In its document, the Prosecutor's Office gave the responsible entity a month to analyze the situation and demanded that the responsible individuals be punished, with notification of the measures taken.

In turn, education departments have to conduct appropriate investigations and provide answers. The involvement of the prosecutor's office in the process of educating children is a catastrophic absurdity for the education system. The complete incompetence of

the Prosecutor's Office employees in matters of child education is demonstrated by one of the responses from teachers⁴¹.

We quote verbatim: "Younger students (grades 1–5) were not involved in such meetings, as the forms and methods of military-patriotic education of students must be appropriate to their age and psychological characteristics. The format and content of the events held on February 15, 2024, and February 22, 2024, did not correspond to the cognitive characteristics of younger schoolchildren. On February 15, 2024, the educational institution hosted the grand opening of the national decade of civic and patriotic affairs, "Afghanistan in the Fates of Our Compatriots." The event included a screening of a special documentary film by the Zviazda TV channel (Navapolatsk) entitled "The Afghan Frontier." The film told the story of how a unique memorial was created to commemorate the paratroopers and crew of the IL-76 aircraft who died near Kabul in 1979. After the film, the schoolchildren listened to a story by MI-8 flight engineer Aleh Maksimavich about his service in Jalalabad. Since most younger schoolchildren do not yet know the history of local conflicts and they are not familiar with the basic facts of the Afghan war or the role of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the children's participation in this event could not contribute to the main goal and objectives of patriotic education."

⁴⁰ Proposal to eliminate violations of the law

⁴¹ Response from the Education Department of the Navapolatsk City Executive Committee to the Prosecutor's Office

In addition to historical myths, children are also bombarded with television propaganda. According to the instructional and methodological letter *"Key Aspects of the Organization of Ideological and Educational Work in General Secondary Education Institutions in the 2024/2025 Academic Year,"* educational institutions should, within their competence, strengthen their efforts to prevent and combat student participation in prohibited groups in Belarus and intensify cooperation with state bodies involved in countering extremism⁴².

As part of this work, schools are recommended to organize screenings and discussions with students in grades 10–11 of the ONT investigative film *"The Deadly Package,"* which covers the details of a KGB special operation allegedly aimed at preventing terrorist attacks in Belarus ahead of Victory Day celebrations⁴³.

More than 1,500 museum rooms have been opened in schools, 200 of which are military-themed. They are dedicated to "historical memory" and "the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War." Soldiers regularly come to classes to familiarize children with weapons and "patriotic duty"⁴⁴.

Each of these examples shows not just ideologization, but a systematic substitution of education. Instead of developing their personalities and civic consciousness, children absorb narratives that benefit the ruling regime, such as: *"The motherland is what the army is"; "Ideology outweighs knowledge, and you, as a child, are a cog in this machine."* This strikes a blow to the future of critical thinking among citizens. The result is not merely an

affinity for the military or law enforcement but the normalization of war as an inevitable reality.

The scale, scope, and systematic nature of the propaganda work being carried out on the younger generation is staggering. Children are handed over to people in uniform who have no pedagogical education, while only professionals with special training and knowledge of child psychology should be working with children.

Instead of trust in the world around them, military personnel shape children's minds with an image of a hostile world, forcing them to view their surroundings through the slit of a rifle scope. From an early age, the regime devalues human life in children's minds, imposing a narrative that the most important thing is the country's history as written by the dictator.

All the work carried out is constantly discussed at meetings of the presidential administration, and the organization of the entire process is entrusted to the Ministry of Education and the education departments of regional and district executive committees.

The "education" plans drafted by these structures are filled with military terminology. Children become accustomed to a future that is not chosen by them but defined by the regime.

The authorities have divided children into age categories, creating a separate role-playing game for each. The principle of continuous upbringing is used to raise willing victims of a future war.

⁴² National Education Portal: [source](#)

⁴³ National Education Portal: [source](#)

⁴⁴ European Security, 2024: [source](#)

CHAPTER 4.

THE SYSTEM OF FINANCING IDEOLOGICAL MANIPULATION AND MILITARIZATION OF CHILDREN

"We pigs are brainworkers. The whole management and organization of this farm depend on us."
George Orwell. *Animal Farm*.

Military-patriotic education in Belarus is financed mainly through state education budgets, including the central state budget, local budgets, extrabudgetary sources, funds, and sponsorship

from organizations and enterprises. The main areas of expenditure are events, educational centers, salaries of military-patriotic education leaders, and material and technical support.



Emblem of the "Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation

In general, the financing of military-patriotic education in Belarus is comprehensive in nature. It combines budget allocations with extrabudgetary sources and sponsorship assistance. The latter is becoming increasingly significant. For example, the system of financing

military-patriotic clubs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is a classic example of a large-scale scheme organized at the state level, involving pro-government bodies and organizations, the education system, and private and state businesses.

The military-patriotic clubs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are fully funded and have no difficulties with financing. The secret of this prosperity lies in the fact that, on the basis of Lukashenka's Decree *"On the Development of Military-Patriotic Clubs,"* a local charitable foundation called *"Molodaya Gvardiya"*

(*"Young Guard"*) was established in Belarus on May 3, 2024⁴⁵. The foundation's goals are to promote the patriotic, spiritual, and moral education of children and young people and to engage in charitable activities to support military-patriotic clubs created in military units on the basis of Lukashenka's decree.



Ala Verush, an analyst at the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Research, during the propaganda program *"Public Discussion of the Draft Updated Constitution"*

The first director of the foundation was Ala Verush. Verush was one of the experts involved in the "renewal" of Belarus's constitution in 2022. Later, she was moved to the position of a member of the foundation's board of trustees and took up a position as a professor at the Department of Philosophy and Ideological Work at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus⁴⁶. On November 16, 2024, she was replaced as director by Colonel Siarhei Hrebennikau, Assistant to the Commander of the Internal Troops and Head of the Department for Mobilization Training and Territorial Defense.

An interesting fact is that the founder of the *"Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation* is the *National State and Public Association*

"Belorusskoye Obschestvo 'Znanie'," chaired by one of the regime's leading propagandists, Vadzim Hihin. There are no random people in the foundation – all of them are appointed representatives of the system.

The foundation is funded through so-called "voluntary" donations from enterprises, public organizations, and pro-government entities – donations that, in practice, are often compulsory rather than optional.

For example, in July 2024, the foundation received a donation of 50,000 Belarusian rubles (\$16,500) from OAO *"Aleksandriyskoye"*⁴⁷. On August 16, 2024, the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus contributed 10,000 rubles (\$3300)⁴⁸.

⁴⁵ Prospectus of the *"Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation*

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/vmvdrrb/48015>

⁴⁷ Agreement with OAO *"Aleksandriyskoye"*

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/vmvdrrb/46079>



Director of the *"Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation* – Colonel Siarhei Hrabennikau

Administrative resources are mobilized to collect these funds. The Ministry of Industry of Belarus, for instance, sends letters to all its holdings instructing them to provide financial assistance in the form of "voluntary" donations⁴⁹.

These sponsorship links are systemic. Relevant agreements are signed with various organizations – for example, with the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, which played a key role in falsifying the 2020 election. It has transferred funds to three

military-patriotic clubs in Yelsk, Naraulia, and Aleksandryia.

In turn, the foundation's money is used not only for direct military-patriotic activities but also for material incentives for club members, further increasing loyalty to the regime, both among the children and their families. For example, families of top-performing students receive cash certificates. In the photo below, the Strelski family receives a certificate for 2,000 rubles (\$650) from the *"Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation*.



A 2,000-ruble certificate for the Strelski family

⁴⁹ Letter sent by the Ministry of Industry

The words of Valiantsina Strel'skaya, mother of a student at the military-patriotic club "Granit," are telling: *"It's hard to express the emotions of admiration I felt today! We plan to spend the money on clothes and school supplies, and I am immensely grateful for this help!"*

Tracing the recipients of such certificates makes it clear what kind of "charity" the "Molodaya

Gvardiya" Foundation actually provides: it supports families of the Internal Troops' military-patriotic club network.

Cash certificates have been awarded to families of students from the clubs "Tsirkon" (military unit 5522), "Edinstvo" (unit 7434), "Krepost" (unit 5526), "Zashchitnik" (unit 6713), and "Lazurit" (unit 5525)⁵⁰.



A certificate for 3,000 rubles to the military-patriotic club "Rys" (town of Naraulia) from the pro-government Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus



Signing of the cooperation agreement between the "Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation and the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/vmvdbr/45459>

A second example of pro-government public organizations involved in financing military-patriotic indoctrination is the *National Public Association "Patriots of Belarus"* (ROO "Patriots of Belarus").

For instance, alongside the Ministry of Education, the Military Academy of the Republic of Belarus, and the Republican [National] Center for Ecology and Local History, the RPA "Patriots of Belarus" is one of the main organizers of the "Vyzov" tournament⁵¹.

According to its own description, ROO "Patriots of Belarus" "was created amid efforts to counter attempts to destabilize the situation in Belarus and to carry out a violent seizure of power," and "is intended to support the existing state system"⁵². Its complete loyalty and patronage from the regime are ensured, among other things, by the fact that this organization serves as the organizer of various events in support of the regime.

Just like the "Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation, the ROO "Patriots of Belarus," with the assistance of Lukashenka's representatives, extracts money under the guise of voluntary aid.

For example, in 2023, OOO [LLC] "Zavod Bulbash" provided it "sponsorship assistance" amounting to 180,000 Belarusian rubles (\$60,000).

In their "requests" for charitable contributions, the "Patriots of Belarus" are not shy about naming specific amounts. For instance, RUP [unitary enterprise] "Beltamozhservice" was "offered" to voluntarily part with

20,000 Belarusian rubles (\$650)⁵³, while OAO [JSC] "Belaruskali" was asked to donate 500 kilograms of its own meat products⁵⁴.

Moreover, the Lukashenka regime has granted the ROO "Patriots of Belarus" another privilege by a resolution of the Council of Ministers dated December 27, 2021; the organization was included in the list of pro-government associations eligible to rent state property at rates ten times lower than market value⁵⁵. The funds and property obtained in this way are used to continue the ideological indoctrination of Belarusian children.

The funding system for military-patriotic education in Belarus is highly centralized and politicized. Despite its many channels (central state budget, local budgets, off-budget funds, and sponsorship), pro-regime structures linked to the state apparatus and security agencies play a decisive role in maintaining it. The creation of the "Molodaya Gvardiya" Foundation and the involvement of trusted loyal figures illustrate the regime's tight control over resource distribution. Financing comes not only from public funds but also through effectively forced "donations" from enterprises and organizations – turning charity into a tool of coercion and administrative mobilization.

Thus, the system of financing military-patriotic education functions not as a form of youth support but as a carefully constructed mechanism aimed at strengthening the regime, cultivating a loyal generation, and maintaining control over society.

⁵¹ Regulations on the conduct of the national military-patriotic tournament "Vyzov"

⁵² Letter from the *National Public Association "Patriots of Belarus"*

⁵³ Letter to RUP "Beltamozhservice"

⁵⁴ Letter to the OAO "Belaruskali"

⁵⁵ Amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of December 27, 2021

CHAPTER 5. FROM TEACHERS TO HATE-MONGERS

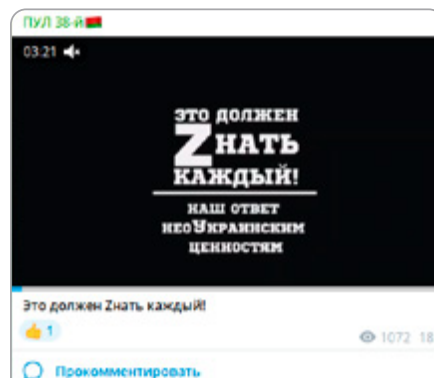
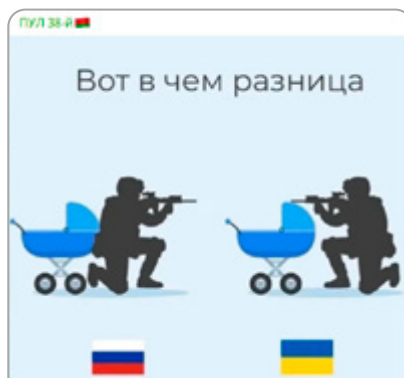
"Bring your little ones to me. I shall take them with my tea, or eat them up at supper!"
Korney Chukovsky. "Cock-The-Roach"



This section is dedicated to the key figures behind the system of "patriotic" upbringing under the Lukashenka regime. They represent the typical profile of most people working within this system – individuals with no relevant education, fully devoted to the system, whose sole purpose is to "program" children for war, cultivating

obedience, devotion, and readiness to sacrifice themselves without hesitation.

For example, in the photo above is Major Dzmitry Bialecki, a former administrator of the Telegram channel of the 38th Brigade and an officer of its ideological department. The images below show examples of the channel's content.



Screenshots from the Telegram channel of the 38th Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade

It is evident that Bialecki teaches Belarusian children to hate Ukrainians, to respect and love the Russian aggressor, and to view the world only through the crosshairs of a weapon.

Another representative of the 38th Brigade is Colonel Siarhei Sukhavila. In 2020, Sukhavila placed the historic Belarusian white-red-white national flag on the threshold of a checkpoint and forced soldiers to wipe their feet on it – recording the act and reporting those

who refused to obey. Back in 2006, during a grenade-throwing exercise, he pushed soldier Andrei Kouhar into a trench with a live grenade and tried to run away. The explosion caused injuries to the soldier. To cover up this cowardly act and gross safety violations, the authorities fabricated a myth about Sukhavila's "heroism" and awarded him the Order "For Personal Courage." Soldiers of the 38th Brigade describe him as a heavy drinker, a rude man, and a habitual abuser of obscene language.



Siarhei Sukhavila with his students



In the section on the financing of military-patriotic indoctrination, it was mentioned how the ROO "*Patriots of Belarus*" participates in this process. Mikalai Zarubitski, who now chairs the organization, filmed and reported Belarusian protesters to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2020.

One of the most notorious figures among these so-called educators is Major General Mikalai

Karpiankou, commander of the Internal Troops and former head of HUBAZIK (GUBOPiK) – the Interior Ministry's unit infamously dubbed the "Belarusian Gestapo."

A distinctive feature of this "educator" is his reverence for Wagner Group mercenaries⁵⁶. Below are screenshots from Karpiankou's interviews and draft designs for patches of the Internal Troops.

⁵⁶ <https://t.me/vrmvdrb/41514>



Mikalai Karpiankou, an admirer of the Wagner Group

Former colleagues describe Karpiankou's deviant behavior – including experimenting with stimulants meant to increase soldiers' endurance

and constantly carrying a combat knife strapped to his ankle, eagerly looking for opportunities to use it.



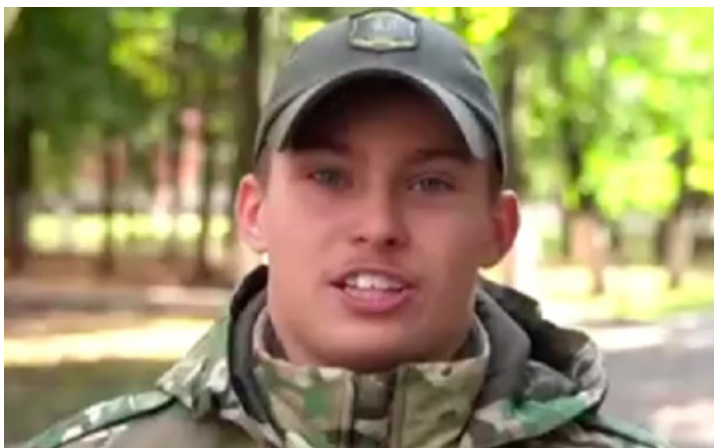
Head of HUBAZIK Mikalai Karpiankou breaks down the doors of a cafe where victims of police brutality are hiding



Former head of the “Belarusian Gestapo” with trainees

The result of the “education” of minors in Internal Troops’ military-patriotic clubs run by Karpiankou can be seen in a video⁵⁷. In this video, children aged 7 to 13, pupils of

the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ clubs, aggressively shout slogans prepared by their “mentors,” such as: *“We have the best president!”*; *“Zmagary [opposition]! Don’t even hope!”*



Screenshots from the video with pupils of the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ military-patriotic club

⁵⁷ Video of students of the military-patriotic club of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

The video was openly published on the Telegram channel of the Internal Troops. The blind, unconditional devotion of these children – raised away from their families and taught to idolize the country's "First" [president] – is striking. Hatred is clearly visible on their faces.

We asked a secondary school teacher with twenty years of experience to analyze this video. Here is the analysis we received:

The children in the video have been instilled with ideas of a hostile world, the glorification of violence, and a cult of personality. This can have a profound and long-lasting impact on their mental health, personality development, and worldview.

The video clearly shows the consequences of being raised by people who should not be allowed to educate children:

1. Increased anxiety and fear. Children perceive the world as dangerous and hostile. This can lead to chronic stress, nightmares, fear for themselves and their parents, and may result in anxiety disorders or obsessive-compulsive behaviors.
2. "Us vs. them" thinking. The world is divided into "friends" and "enemies," with reality perceived in black and white. This hinders the development of empathy, critical thinking, and social skills. Continued exposure will likely lead to aggression and hostility toward other cultures, nationalities, and differing opinions.
3. Cult of personality and submission. The leader is glorified, and children become dependent on authority. Moral judgment is replaced by loyalty to a figure. Prolonged indoctrination extinguishes personal responsibility, independent thinking, and initiative. For these children, self-sacrifice for a "higher cause" becomes normal.
4. Disrupted identity formation. At this age, personal and social identity develop. The video shows how aggressive ideology suppresses natural interests and blocks personal growth. Children adopt a false identity: they see themselves only as "soldiers, defenders, patriots."



Natalia Eismant, part of Raman Bandarenka's murder squad, with trainees at the military-patriotic club of the 3214th Internal Troops unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

5. Imposed destructive behavior patterns. Violence is seen as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Life is devalued. Dying for the president is portrayed as the purpose of life; anyone thinking differently is an enemy. Critical thinking is absent, replaced by blind faith. Educators in these programs damage children's psyches, which, in adolescence, manifests as aggression, bullying, and radicalism.

The “patriots” raised in military-patriotic classes and clubs are ready to fight to the death – yet they don’t even need to find an enemy themselves. The state has already designated enemies: those labeled as “extremists,” “terrorists,” or listed in the “BESPORYADKI” (“RIOTS”) database, the “Belarusian Hajun” case files, and other regime records. These enemies are ordinary Belarusians – their peers. And nothing is surprising here: these children are being educated by actual killers.

Unsurprisingly, the process of raising the regime’s future security officers is supervised by members of the dictator’s inner circle and his family.

The Presidential Sports Club funnels part of its funds to the system that trains these “defenders” in the form of gratuitous assistance.

The Presidential Sports Club – a private company that enriches Lukashenka’s family and close associates – systematically invests money in military-patriotic clubs and builds sports complexes on military bases for one reason only: it needs guarantees for the continued existence of the company and the prosperity of the family business.

That is why the motto “*We serve the President and the Fatherland*” is not mere rhetoric. “*We will carry out any assigned task for the benefit of the Republic of Belarus, because we are special forces and we cannot do otherwise*”⁵⁸. This slogan should be understood as: “*We serve Lukashenka and his state.*” And indeed, the regime’s “patriots” cannot act otherwise.

A “patriot” must be completely devoted to the dictator and fully focused on his speech. No one tells them that the state is an apparatus of violence, or that the state and the homeland are completely different things.



Dmitry Lukashenka with trainees at the sports hall of the “Rys” special forces unit

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/vmvdrrb/36381>



Thus, the system of so-called “state patriot” education in Belarus is not based on professionalism or pedagogical competence, but on loyalty to the regime and the transmission of violence and cult worship. Key figures involved are of questionable reputation, display aggressive behavior, and have backgrounds far removed from genuine teaching. Their main goals are: forming an image of an enemy, imposing a black-and-white worldview, instilling blind faith in a leader, and promoting readiness for self-sacrifice in the name of the regime.

The results of this “education” are already visible: children develop heightened anxiety,

aggression, radical tendencies, disrupted identity, and blocked critical thinking. This system does not nurture citizens; it produces cogs in a violent apparatus, ready to obey orders unquestioningly and view their fellow citizens as enemies.

In conclusion, military-patriotic education in its current form becomes a mechanism of ideological conditioning and militarization of children’s minds, where love for the homeland is replaced by a cult of Lukashenka’s personality and a willingness to serve not society, but an authoritarian state.



CHAPTER 6.

INTERNATIONAL LAW VIOLATIONS

*“Sometimes we can’t afford
to worry about laws!”
A. Lukashenka*

Belarus is officially a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – a key international treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989, and entered into force in 1990. The Republic of Belarus ratified it that same year, thereby assuming the obligation to protect children from exploitation, ideological pressure, and involvement in military structures. Moreover, in 1993, a national law *“On the Rights of the Child”* was adopted to enshrine these international standards domestically.

However, the practice of childhood militarization in Belarus directly contradicts both the spirit and the letter of the Convention. While the term “militarization” itself does not appear in the document, the principles and articles it violates are perfectly clear.

PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION AND PROPAGANDA

Article 17 requires states to ensure that children have access to information conducive to their spiritual and moral development. The imposition of militarist propaganda and state ideological clichés directly contradicts this requirement.

Article 29 (1) states that education must foster respect for human rights, a culture of peace, and friendship among nations. In Belarus, however, school programs and paramilitary projects emphasize military discipline and loyalty to the regime.

Article 36 obliges states to protect children from all forms of exploitation. The use of schoolchildren in ideological campaigns and “demonstrative” patriotic events is nothing less than the exploitation of minors.

PROTECTION FROM INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Article 38 explicitly prohibits the participation of children under 15 years of age in hostilities – even in preparation for them. In Belarus, however, military-patriotic clubs effectively push adolescents toward the role of “soldiers in waiting.”

FREEDOM OF BELIEF AND THOUGHT

Article 13 guarantees a child’s right to freely express opinions and receive diverse information. Under a state monopoly on ideology and the imposition of a “single correct” worldview, this right is systematically violated.

Article 14 guarantees freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. Yet militarist and ideological indoctrination turns children into objects of pressure rather than subjects of free choice.

Thus, the Lukashenka regime violates an entire set of CRC provisions:

Articles 17, 29, 36 – prohibition of ideological manipulation and obligation to protect children from exploitation;

Article 38 – prohibition of militarization and involvement in military activities;

Articles 13, 14 – protection of freedom of opinion and belief.

In effect, the Lukashenka regime has built a system that both ignores its international obligations and undermines the very essence of childhood – a time meant for freedom, choice, and development.



CONCLUSION

1. A state-level system has been established in the Republic of Belarus that destroys a child's individuality and shapes an entirely obedient servant of the state. Children's consciousness is programmed for belonging to a specific caste of security enforcers.
2. Alongside fostering absolute submission, the regime eradicates critical thinking in the younger generation. A full-cycle system has been built to reproduce the apparatus of violence and maintain power. The goal of "military-patriotic education" is for each security agency to train and raise its future replacements from among children.
3. The system is being refined and strengthened. The age of children subjected to psychological conditioning by security agencies is steadily getting younger.
4. Funding and legislative support are provided at the state level and lobbied by the ruling clan and its loyal entourage.
5. The military focus has become the core direction of youth upbringing. War, sacrifice, hatred, and hostility toward the outside world form the foundation of this system.

If the current trend continues, Belarus will produce a generation raised from childhood to handle weapons and obey orders. This will lead to:

- the degradation of the education system;
- growing aggressiveness among youth;
- a sufficient personnel reserve for security structures;
- increased dependence on Russia, which directly participates in developing "patriotic education" programs.

The militarization of children in Belarus is not an accident – it is a survival strategy of the regime. It is rooted in Lukashenka's fear of a new generation that could challenge him.

Childhood is not a time for war games. It is a time to learn freedom, responsibility, and cooperation. While schoolchildren in Europe or the United States study ecology, programming, and artificial intelligence, Belarusian children are being prepared for war.

This is not a choice for the future – it is a choice for catastrophe.

