

Using migrants as a weapon

EU officials have accused Alexander Lukashenko, Belarus's autocratic leader, of flying migrants into the country and encouraging them to cross the EU's borders to destabilise the bloc



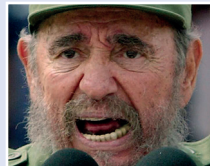
■ **Nov 26, 2021:** Lukashenko (*right*) makes televised visit to group of migrants stranded on Belarus's border with Poland, telling them **"It is your choice. Go! That's the whole philosophy"**



■ **Aug 2010:** Libyan leader **Muammar Gaddafi** causes outrage by demanding **€5 billion/year** from EU to stop African migrants crossing Mediterranean to Italy

■ **May 2021:** Morocco encourages 8,000 mostly Moroccan migrants to enter Spanish territory of **Ceuta**. Move is seen as reprisal after Spain allows **Polisario Front** leader **Brahim Ghali** to be treated in hospital for Covid-19. Polisario Front is fighting for Western Saharan sovereignty against Moroccan government

■ **May 1980:** At height of Cold War, Cuba's **Fidel Castro** (*below*) opens **Port of Mariel** for any Cubans eager to leave for U.S. Some **125,000** Cubans cross to Florida, contributing to U.S. President **Jimmy Carter's** election defeat



■ **Mar-Dec 1971:** Ten million Bengali refugees flee to India during **Bangladesh Liberation War**. Pakistani crackdown on independence movement puts pressure on New Delhi to intervene militarily in early December