

“WHY LUKASHENKA? BECAUSE HE IS STRONG”

Main narratives of Belarusian propaganda in January 2026

Monthly analytical review by iSANS

February 2026

SUMMARY

BELARUS

- In January, propaganda enthusiastically discussed Donald Trump's invitation to Vladimir Putin and Aliaksandr Lukashenka to join the "Board of Peace."
- Pro-government channels continue to strengthen the image of Lukashenka as a "peacemaker" who is holding Belarus back from falling into the abyss of wars and conflicts.
- The main attacks are directed against the opposition, political emigrants, and representatives of Belarusian democratic forces. The meeting between President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the leader of Belarus's democratic forces Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya was presented by pro-government commentators as a blow to the developing relations between Belarus and the U.S., and its significance was downplayed.

WAR IN UKRAINE

- In January, information attacks against Ukraine and its leadership intensified. Belarus continues to participate in the hybrid war against Ukraine. Its anti-Ukrainian narratives are synchronized with the ideological lines of the Kremlin.
- Propaganda tends to shift the blame for the ongoing war from the aggressor (Russia) to the victim of aggression – Ukraine.
- In January, Russia struck Ukraine with the Oreshnik ballistic missile for the second time. Propagandists expected that this attack would push the Ukrainian leadership toward negotiations with Russia on Moscow's terms.

"THREAT FROM THE WEST"

- The West is portrayed as the main foreign policy enemy threatening the stability and security of Belarus and its alliance with Russia.
- In anti-Western propaganda narratives, the U.S. is gradually giving the role of the main antagonist to Europe. Particular focus is placed on Poland and the Baltic states.
- Throughout the month, propaganda discussed the U.S. special operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and, in this context, could not settle on a clear attitude toward Donald Trump.
- Trump's threats to seize Greenland were gleefully presented by pro-government commentators as evidence of a split within the West and the weakening of Europe.
- Propaganda fully approved and justified the repression and brutality of the authorities against participants of peaceful mass protests in Iran.

BELARUS

«Board of Peace»

In January, pro-government channels enthusiastically discussed U.S. President Donald Trump's invitation to Vladimir Putin and Aliaksandr Lukashenka to join the Board of Peace he had created, whose main stated goal is to ensure security in the Middle East. This, of course, elevated the international legitimacy of the two dictators to a new level. They are treated as equals, and no one in the U.S. administration mentions that war criminals have been invited to join the Board of Peace, one of whom has an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court, or that Russia and Belarus are under international sanctions for military aggression against Ukraine. Lukashenka, of course, gratefully accepted Trump's invitation.

This event provided grounds for new propaganda statements claiming that Belarus, alongside powerful superpowers, is resolving issues of global security on an equal footing with them.

Vadzim Yelfimau:

“Trump appealed to Lukashenka because he understands that he can get smart advice. Another fact: good friendly relations have been established between Trump and Lukashenka. This cannot be ignored. So our president’s move is absolutely wise.” ([ONT NEWS](#), 29.01)

Yury Vaskrasenski:

“Trump does not recognize weaklings and does not invite them to the Board of Peace. Note that Trump invited only a third of the world, if not a quarter. This shows that the achievements of the Republic of Belarus in foreign policy have once again been duly appreciated.” ([STV](#), 22.01)

Aliaksandr Alesin:

“Belarus’s participation in the Board of Peace will allow us not only to participate in resolving issues of global importance. Belarus has gained authority throughout the world as perhaps the most peace-loving state on the planet.” ([BelTA](#), 24.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Today, addressing the West, Batska [Lukashenka] once again extended a hand of peace, but said that only together with Russia, that it would not be possible to divide us. He has always been like that—strong and bold. Trump respects that.” ([Minskaya Prauda](#), 19.01)

“Why Lukashenka? Because he's strong.” ([STV](#), 21.01)

Aliaksei Bialiayeu:

“We have influence not only in Europe, but also in Eurasia. Belarus has always advocated peaceful means of conflict resolution.” ([News.by](#), 21.01)

Aleh Haidukevich:

"Today, we see how the diplomatic efforts of Russia and Belarus in the American direction are proving successful. That is why our countries have been invited to join the Board of Peace, unlike Lithuania, for example." ([Sputnik](#), 21.01)

"Belarus is a powerful state on which the security of all Europe and the future of the world depend, which is why we are being invited. Donald Trump invites the powerful." ([ZhS Premium](#), 19.01)

Piotr Piatrouski:

"Belarus's participation [in the Board of Peace] is a declaration by the official Minsk in favor of peace. We see it as a coalition for peace, not as confrontation." ([Grantoyed.by](#), 20.01)

Lukashenka the "peacemaker"

Propagandists thank Lukashenka for protecting Belarus from wars and conflicts and "standing guard over peace." He achieves this, in particular, by importing Russian ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons into the country.

Viktar Kalina:

"Aliaksandr Ryhoravich saved the country from war. Alexander Grigoryevich saved Belarusians, Belarusian men, from destruction, from the front, from war. That is why I say that Lukashenka is the best thing God has given Belarus." ([ZhS Premium](#) Telegram channel, 18.01)

Yauhen Horyn:

"We can now focus on the economy and not spend money on the arms race. We have hypersonic weapons that are decades ahead of our opponents." ([SB.BY Belarus Segodnya](#) Telegram channel, 05.01)

Aliaksei Bialiyeu:

"We take external threats into account and try to counteract them: we do not escalate the situation, we do not say that everyone should be put under arms and mobilized. For example, **we deploy high-precision weapons such as the Oreshnik system and tactical nuclear weapons on our territory.**" ([SB. Belarus Segodnya](#), 13.01)

Aliaksandr Shpakouski:

"Belarus adheres to peaceful principles in its foreign policy. Belarus is not at war with anyone. And this is thanks to our Armed Forces, the Belarusian people, and our national leader." ([SB. Belarus Segodnya](#), 29.01)

Belarus's democratic forces

Belarusian protesters and representatives of the democratic movement are constantly under propaganda attack.

"Thank God that Lukashenka showed strength of will in 2020. Lukashenka had and still has this strength of will. That is why he restored order: the security

forces stood by him, and the people stood by the president. That is why Belarus is now a peaceful, calm, and good country.” ([ZhS Premium](#) Telegram channel, 24.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Scandals. The only form of existence of the so-called Belarusian opposition. Denunciations, hatred, squabbling.” ([Minskaya Prauda](#), 13.01)

Ivan Eismant:

“These people [protesters] have been spreading slander in the media for years, contributing to sanctions that ordinary Belarusians suffer from. They are betraying their homeland for money, but now, seeing their failure, they are trying to change tactics, pretending to be ‘good helpers’. [...] The change in rhetoric of the fugitives is nothing more than preparation for a repeat of the events of August 2020, but in 2030.” ([NEWS.BY](#), 16.01)

Maksim Ryzhankou:

“The path with our fugitives is a path to nowhere. I think they (in Warsaw – Sputnik) will understand this, draw a line under this story, and begin to build cooperation in the interests of the peoples on both sides of the border, returning to trade, economic, and interpersonal interaction with Belarus.” ([Sputnik](#), 21.01)

Meeting between Zelenskyy and Tsikhanouskaya

On January 25, in Vilnius, the leader of the Belarusian democratic forces, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, held their first joint meeting since the start of the full-scale invasion. Among other things, Zelenskyy thanked the Belarusians fighting on the side of Ukraine, promised to appoint a special representative for relations with the Belarusian opposition, and invited Tsikhanouskaya to visit Kyiv. Channels controlled by Lukashenka attempted to ridicule and downplay the significance of this event, reducing it to a “backroom” meeting. The messages on Telegram channels were identical, as if copying one another.

“Nevolfovich” (an anonymous channel run by propagandists close to the Belarusian security services) called the meeting between Tsikhanouskaya and Zelenskyy **“toilet diplomacy”**:

“She simply waited for him in the lobby of the Vilnius hotel where he was staying. Zelenskyy walked past, exchanged a few perfunctory words for the cameras, and moved on.” ([Nevolfovich](#), 26.01)

Zhuliki NEWS Telegram channel:

“In reality, the news story turned out to be just another example of **toilet diplomacy**. [Tsikhanouskaya] was placed in the lobby of the Hilton hotel in Vilnius, where Zelenskyy was staying with his entourage. In the end, she **exchanged a few words** with him in front of the cameras, and that was it.” (Zhuliki NEWS Telegram [channel](#), 26.01)

WAR IN UKRAINE

Anti-Ukrainian narratives

iSANS monitoring shows some intensification of information attacks against Ukraine and its military and political leadership in the Belarusian pro-government media in January. In our view, this was facilitated by the following factors and events:

- Trump's gradual withdrawal from involvement in resolving the conflict in recent months, which effectively gives Russia a sense of impunity and *carte blanche* to launch new brutal attacks on peaceful cities and civilian infrastructure.
- The ongoing attempts by various international actors to pressure the Ukrainian president into accepting a peace agreement with Russia.
- Volodymyr Zelenskyy's meeting with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Vilnius (see previous section), during which the Ukrainian president expressed his gratitude and support for Belarusians fighting on Ukraine's side.

In its anti-Ukrainian rhetoric, Belarusian propaganda remains synchronized with Russian propaganda and operates within the ideological framework set by the Kremlin. Minsk is participating in a hybrid war against Ukraine on Russia's side, spreading lies in an attempt to convince its audience that Ukraine must agree to a peace agreement on Russia's terms as soon as possible in order to preserve itself.

According to propaganda narratives, it is Belarus that advocates ending the war, while Ukraine refuses to negotiate in order to satisfy the wishes of its "Western masters," who "demand the continuation of the war against Russia," which they are waging "through the hands of Ukrainians."

One of the main arguments used to exert pressure is that Ukraine's place is among the three fraternal Slavic peoples (alongside Russians and Belarusians), from which it has broken away and to which it must be returned, either voluntarily or by force.

Propaganda also claims that corruption in Ukraine is the main reason for the ongoing war and tends to shift responsibility for the war from the aggressor (Russia) to the victim of aggression – Ukraine.

Lyudmila Hladkaya:

"If the war ends, how many people will lose their income because they steal weapons, steal equipment, steal from the trenches." ("Lyudmila Gladkaya on why it is beneficial for the Ukrainian authorities to sabotage peace talks"). (SB.BY Belarus Segodnya Telegram [channel](#), 30.01)

Pavel Karnazytski:

"European leaders and their overseas patrons do not care how many more Ukrainians must die before peace comes to the country. Only Viktor Orban [Prime Minister of Hungary] keeps reminding everyone that corrupt Ukraine is the ballast that will prevent the European ship from sailing." ([Minskaya Prauda](#), 26.01)

Aliaksandr Shpakouski:

“While the Belarusian leader talks about peace, a malicious clown in Kyiv threatens our country with strikes on infrastructure facilities.” (“Shpakovsky. Po sushchestvu” Telegram [channel](#), 02.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Our Batska is doing everything he can to end this war. He repeatedly appeals to Ukrainians: **no one will help you except your neighbors**. We must mend the broken pots. We must live in this world here. Neither Europe nor NATO will accept you. **Our happiness lies in our families, close to our loved ones, our brothers.**” ([Minskaya Prauda](#), 25.01)

Vadzim Yelfimau:

“When Aliaksandr Lukashenka came to power and first proposed the Union State, Ukrainian nationalists declared that the Belarusian people did not exist, that we had no national identity, and that the nation would perish. And today, who is on the verge of extinction? It is this very **confused Ukrainian people.**” (Minsk-Novosti Telegram [channel](#), 15.01)

The meeting between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, which we mentioned above, is being portrayed by propagandists as Ukraine's desire to undermine the developing relations between Belarus and the United States.

Aleh Haidukevich:

“Why has Zelenskyy started paying so much attention to Belarus? First, Zelenskyy clearly sees the improvement in relations between the U.S. and Belarus, as well as the dialogue between Donald Trump and Aliaksandr Lukashenka. He doesn't like this, just as he doesn't like the U.S. dialogue with Putin. Second, things are getting worse and worse on the Ukrainian front: everyone understands perfectly well that there are zero prospects there. That is why the **bet is being placed on extremism, terrorism, and involving Belarus in the conflict.**” (Minsk-Novosti Telegram [channel](#), 26.01)

Aliaksandr Shpakouski:

“Zelenskyy is acting in the interests of European globalists, who are trying to prevent the normalization of Belarusian-American relations. It is obvious that Belarus has made certain achievements in its western vector.” ([BelRos](#) Telegram channel, 30.01)

Natallia Eismant (Lukashenka's press secretary):

“At this meeting [with Tsikhanouskaya], Zelenskyy allegedly discussed the initiation of criminal proceedings against the Belarusian head of state. At the same time, Lukashenka had previously stated on more than one occasion that he was ready to assist in resolving the conflict in Ukraine.” ([Sputnik](#), 27.01)

Strike with Oreshnik

On January 9, Russia struck Ukraine with an Oreshnik medium-range ballistic missile. The strike hit a critical infrastructure facility near Lviv, 90 km from the Polish-Ukrainian border. This is the second Russian strike on Ukraine with an Oreshnik missile. Given

that the missile, which can carry nuclear warheads, did not have a warhead and did not cause major damage, experts concluded that the strike was intended to demonstrate Russia's capabilities, engage in “nuclear blackmail,” and intimidate Ukraine and the West.

Propagandist Yury Vaskrasenski expected that the Oreshnik strike would make Ukrainians more compliant and force them to negotiate on Moscow's terms:

“Zelenskyy’s regime is not going to make any compromises. Because any sane government, even after today's strike by Oreshnik, would try to establish direct contact with its opponent.” ([NEWS.BY](#) Telegram channel, 10.01)

“THREAT FROM THE WEST”

In the minds of propagandists, the West is a source of threats, a hostile alliance that wants to weaken, enslave, and dismember Belarus, destroy Russia, and hinder the development of the Union State. Therefore, Belarus must always be prepared for aggression from the West.

Siarhei Banar:

“They [Western countries] are preparing a new attack on the East. It has always been this way and will continue to be so.” ([BELTA](#), 13.01)

Aliaksei Audonin:

“Right now, large psychological operations centers subordinate to NATO structures are working purposefully against us. [...] The goal is to make people perceive NATO structures as something beneficial for themselves and their people.” ([SB. Belarus Segodnya](#), 14.01)

Anti-European narratives

During Donald Trump’s year as president, the United States gradually lost its status as the main enemy of Russia and Belarus in pro-Kremlin propaganda narratives. They have been replaced by Europe and the European Union. At the same time, the most acute propaganda attacks are directed at the states on the eastern flank of the EU – Poland and the Baltic countries.

Viktar Khrenin (Minister of Defense of Belarus)

“There is ongoing development and militarization of forces and resources in European countries. We are witnessing unprecedented militarization, continuing aggressive attacks and intentions towards our country.” ([BelTA](#), 12.01)

Andrei Mukavozchyk:

“If Donald Trump is right, and Europe is heading toward the disappearance of its civilization, then it is understandable that everything that is best will be perceived by Europeans as hostile. Our best nature, our best ecology, our best products, best social standards, best order and best security, best cars and best state.” ([STV](#), 05.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Will Europe succeed in reviving fascism? They already have a racial theory. But fascism needs the involvement of the masses; it needs millions of people who believe in the Führer unconditionally, who are even ready to die for him. And they need a Führer himself. Andrei Mukavozchyk believes that they can succeed [in this].” ([Azaryonok. STV. Belarus](#) Telegram channel, 01.01)

Aliaksei Bialiayeu:

“Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and a number of other European countries are currently frightening their populations with the prospect of war in either

2029 or 2030. [...] The goal is to bring the “right” politicians to power on the crest of militaristic ideas. They will demonstrate a firm hand in the fight against a supposed external aggressor, but in reality, they will establish **fascist dictatorships within European states.**” ([SB. Belarus Segodnya](#), 13.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Lithuania is a small fascist limitorf. It needs an eternal enemy, but somehow it can't seem to fight Lukashenka.” ([SB. Belarus Segodnya](#) Telegram channel, 26.01)

Aleh Haidukevich:

“If Europe wants to be strong, if it really wants to have a say in this world, there is only one way, as history has proven. That is through good relations with Belarus and Russia.” ([ZhS Premium](#) Telegram channel, 18.01)

The U.S. special operation in Venezuela and attitudes toward Donald Trump

“Trump behaves like a cowboy with a Colt pistol and a Winchester rifle. He believes that he can do anything in the ‘wild prairies’ and that, apart from him, there is no law or court. President [Lukashenka] was absolutely right when he said: we must remain sane, think clearly, and have the tools to defend ourselves,”

Aliaksei Bialayeu, a columnist for the state news agency Minsk-Novosti, [wrote](#) in his January column. And this remark perfectly reflects the position of Belarus's pro-government media on what is happening in Venezuela: anger, ostentatious indignation, and envy.

Throughout the month, propagandists continuously discussed the U.S. special forces operation to capture the country's president, Nicolas Maduro. The latter was considered one of Vladimir Putin and Aliaksandr Lukashenka's closest friends in Latin America. The Venezuelan government did a lot of business with Russia, Russian companies developed oil and gas fields in the country, sold weapons and equipment, and Russian military and paramilitary organizations guarded enterprises and trained the local army. Through joint concessions, the Kremlin simultaneously supported and controlled Maduro's power.

It is not surprising that propaganda presented the capture of the Venezuelan leader in a sharply negative light. It accused Washington of violating international treaties and using “might makes right,” forgetting that Russia, with the help of Belarus, is currently continuing its aggressive and bloody war against Ukraine, destroying its peaceful population and committing mass war crimes.

At the same time, propagandists had to tackle the difficult task of convincing the population under their control that such events would be impossible in Belarus and Russia.

Kseniya Lebedzeva:

“Americans can do anything if the country [target of attack] is not fully protected. [...] If Putin were as unprotected as Maduro, I believe Trump would not mind putting him on trial either.” ([LEBEDEVA](#) Telegram channel, 03.01)

Andrei Bahadzel:

“The scenario we are seeing in Venezuela is simply impossible in our country. All these aspects are fully regulated here. We have the most modern armed forces, the most modern missile systems, and tactical nuclear weapons. This is also a very important argument today.” ([News.by](#), 09.01)

Propagandists tend to attribute the success of the operation to capture Maduro to trivial betrayal within his inner circle. They claim that the president's security detail and air defense failed because there were traitors in the Venezuelan army who had been bribed by the Americans. The goal of the propaganda was to assure the audience that such a scenario was impossible in Belarus.

ZhS Premium (an anonymous Telegram channel close to the Belarusian security services):

“Let [the Americans] not tell fairy tales about valiant commandos who gangster-style kidnapped the president of Venezuela and his wife. **All this is the result of betrayal by his closest circle.**” ([ZhS Premium](#), 03.01)

Aliaksandr Valfovich:

“Unfortunately, in Venezuela, betrayal of the president and the current government probably played a role. [...] **This is impossible in our country** because people in uniform are incapable of betrayal. We, the Belarusian people, cannot betray our President, we simply do not have the right to do so.” ([BeITA](#), 12.01)

Greenland

The events that unfolded around Greenland in January were maliciously portrayed by propaganda as a split in the West and a weakening of Europe.

Aleh Haidukevich:

“If Donald Trump decides to take Greenland by force tomorrow, Europe will do nothing. It will simply put up with it, and that will be all. It is incapable of anything: it cannot fight or oppose the U.S. America doesn't need to use force, Greenland will be handed over just like that.” ([Minsk-Novosti](#) Telegram channel, 13.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Why does he need to raise the flag [in Greenland]? He wants to demonstrate his triumph. And also to humiliate the European Union. After all, those he hates have entrenched themselves there.” ([Minskaya Prauda](#), 18.01)

Iran

In January, pro-Kremlin propaganda focused on events in Iran, where mass street demonstrations broke out in the middle of the month. After two weeks of protests, the state brutally suppressed them. Thousands of people were killed on the streets of

Tehran and other cities. The media loyal to Lukashenka justified and approved of the bloody suppression of the protests.

Aliaksandr Shpakouski:

“The Iranian security forces dealt with the extremists decisively and harshly. It should be noted that such actions in response to an armed rebellion are entirely justified.” ([Shpakovsky. Po sushchestvu](#) Telegram channel, 17.01)

Ryhor Azaronak:

“Iran is under attack right now. Don't believe anyone who tells you nonsense about some terrible terrorist regime there. The rioters, rebels, and insurgents are the terrorists. The government in Tehran is an enlightened spiritual theocracy that treats women and people in general much better than the crazy feminists in the evil West.” ([STV](#), 14.01)