



**COORDINATION  
HEADQUARTERS FOR THE  
TREATMENT OF  
PRISONERS OF WAR**



FEBRUARY 2026  
MONTHLY REPORT  
(with important  
March updates)

**Monthly Report on the  
Treatment of Prisoners of  
War, War Crimes and Unlawful  
Recruitment Practices in the  
Russia–Ukraine War**

# 05-06 MARCH 2026

## AN IMPORTANT MARCH UPDATE



### 502 Ukrainians Returned Home

Half a thousand servicemen and two civilians were exchanged under the Geneva agreements. Some of them had been held in captivity since 2022. The youngest freed serviceman is 26, while the oldest is 60.

The released Ukrainians will be taken for medical rehabilitation, receive documents, due financial payments, and all necessary care.

The released defenders will be taken to medical centers for all necessary examinations, further treatment, and medical rehabilitation. They will receive the required assistance, be issued documents, and obtain the payments due to them.

[DAY 1 - WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

[DAY 2 - WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

# FEBRUARY 2026

## BODIES AND REMAINS OF UKRAINIAN DEFENDERS RETURNED HOME



**On 26 February 2026**

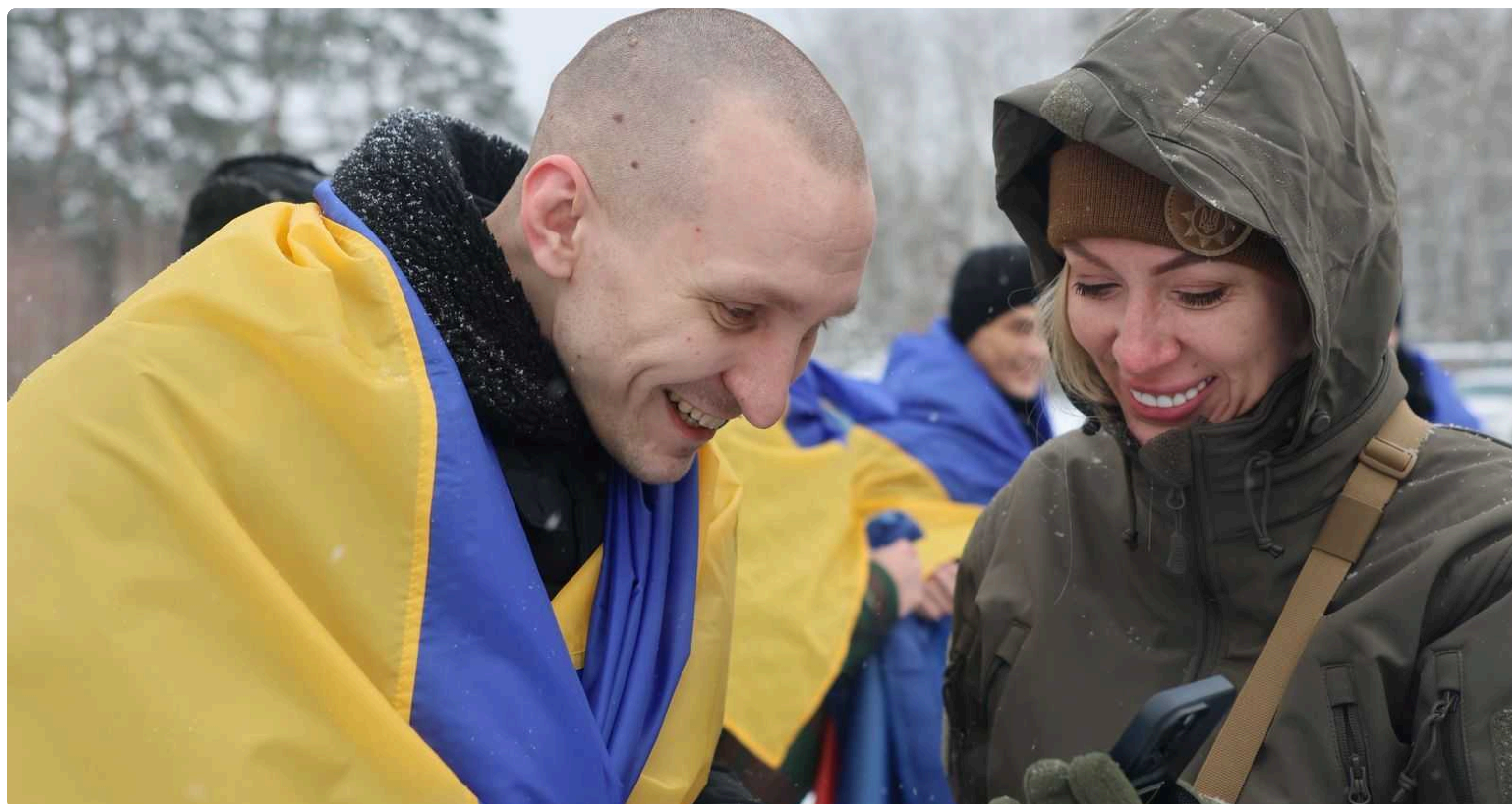
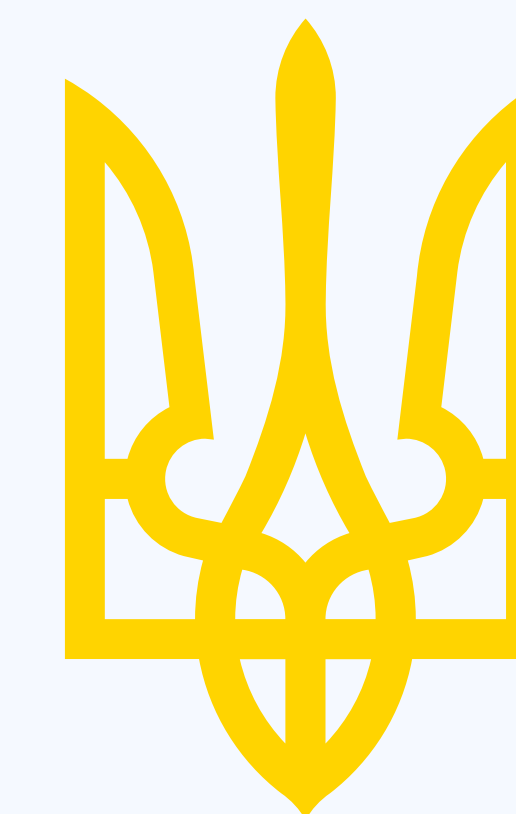
**According to preliminary information provided by the Russian side, the bodies may belong to Ukrainian defenders.**

**Subsequently, investigators from law enforcement agencies, together with representatives of Ukraine's forensic expert institutions, will carry out all necessary measures aimed at identifying the repatriated deceased.**

[Read more](#)

# FEBRUARY 2026

## FIRST POW EXCHANGE THIS YEAR: MOMENTS AND EMOTIONS



### On 5 February 2026

Ukraine Frees 150 Soldiers and 7 Civilians From Russian Captivity. Most of them were captured during the defense of Mariupol. Most of the returned prisoners had been in Russian captivity since 2022.

The youngest of those released is 23 years old. He was captured at the age of 19 during the defense of Mariupol and unlawfully sentenced to life imprisonment by a Russian court. The oldest freed defender is 63 years old.

[MORE PHOTOS](#)

# FEBRUARY 2026

## UPDATES ON THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE RUSSIA–UKRAINE WAR



### Russian General Boasts of Mutilating Ukrainian POWs

Commander of the 42nd Guards Motor Rifle Division bragged to his wife about how his soldiers had just stormed a "strongpoint" in Ukraine, and had captured four prisoners-of-war. In correspondence with his wife, according to the journalistic investigation, he sent a photograph that appeared to be several human ears, blackened and hanging from a metal pipe.

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### Russia Blackmails Families of Ukrainian POWs to Register Them on Starlink

As Elon Musk cuts Starlink access for Russian forces at the request of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, Russia is attempting to coerce the families of Ukrainian prisoners of war into registering Starlink terminals for use by Russian troops on the battlefield.

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### 834 Ukrainian Civilians Held in Russian Captivity: Urgent Calls for Europe to Act

During the 25th Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, participants advocates discussed Russia's war crimes against Ukrainian civilians, focusing on efforts to secure their release. Released journalist Dmytro Khyliuk stressed that, unlike prisoners of war protected under the Geneva Conventions, there is no clear international mechanism to rescue

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# FEBRUARY 2026

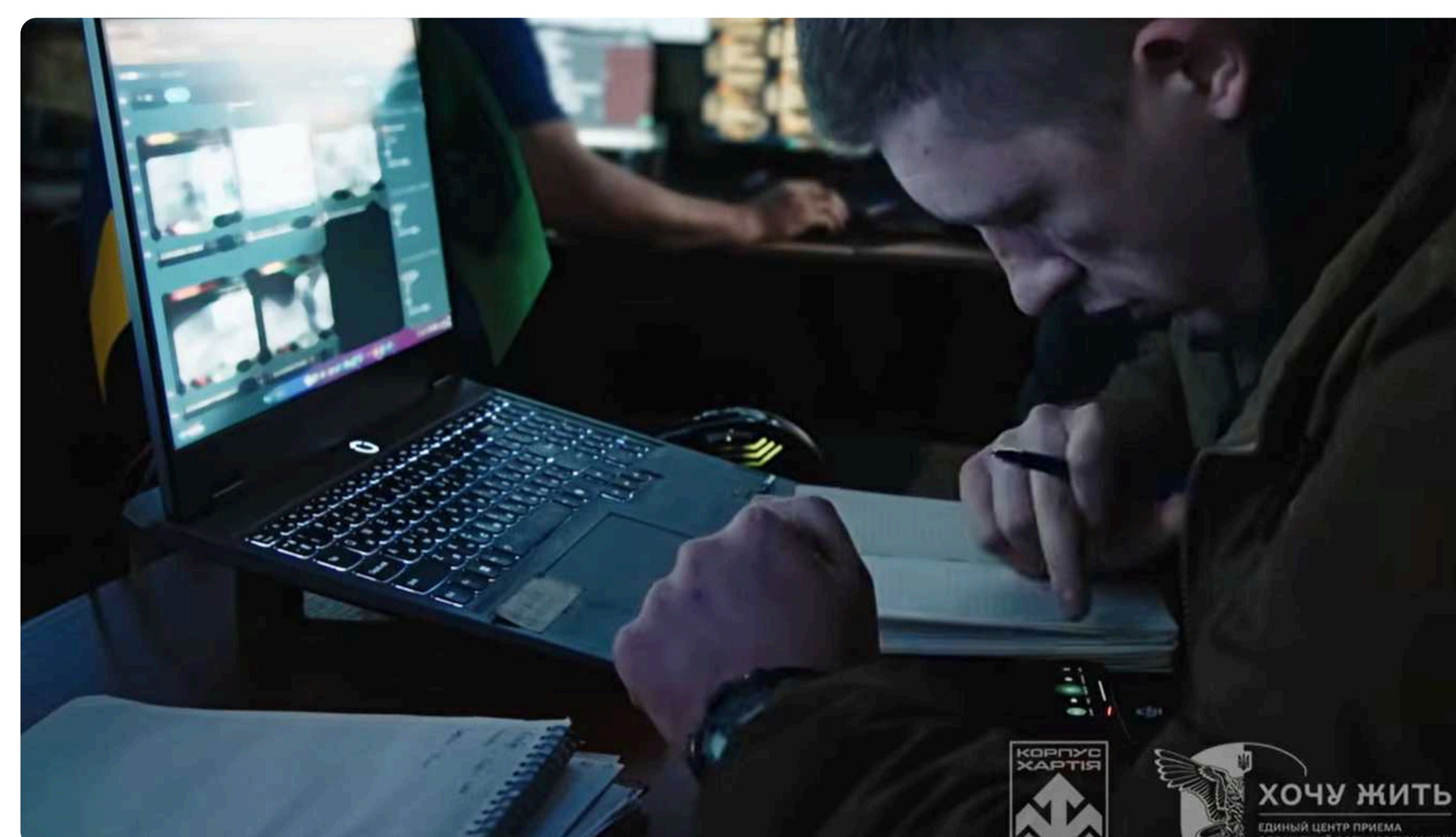
## RUSSIAN SOLDIERS SURRENDER INTO CAPTIVITY IN UKRAINE



### 'They Destroyed My Life': Elite Russian Drone Operator From 'Rubikon' Defects to Ukraine

Miroslav Simonov says abuse, intimidation, and a drone strike that injured a civilian woman pushed him to surrender through Ukraine's "I Want to Live" project.

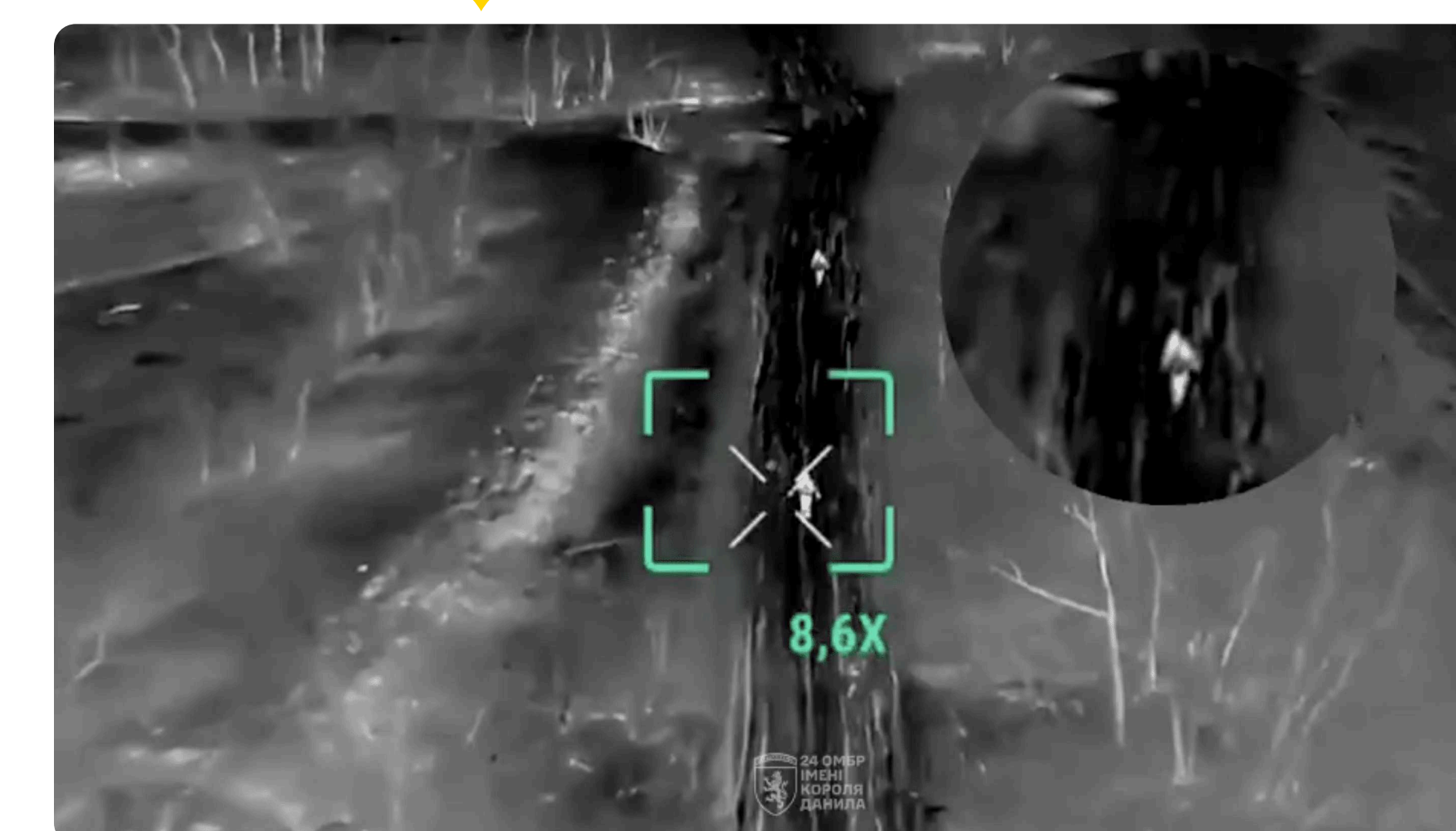
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### Russians Surrender Near Kupiansk After Contacting Ukrainian Chatbot

A group of Russian soldiers in Kupiansk, who arrived through an abandoned gas pipeline, voluntarily surrendered to the Ukrainian Armed Forces after using the chatbot of the 'I Want to Live' project. "Khartiia" - brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine reveals operation details.

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### Russian Forces Shoot Own Soldiers Trying to Surrender to Ukraine

Russian forces continue to attack their own soldiers who attempt to surrender, highlighting a pattern of gruesome violence aimed at preventing captivity.

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# FEBRUARY 2026

## KENYA REACTS TO RUSSIAN RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES



### Mass Recruitment of Kenyans by Russia Sparks Backlash in Parliament

According to the report by Kenya's National Intelligence Service presented in Kenyan National Assembly by the majority leader **Kimani Ichung'wah**, Russians have already recruited over 1,000 local citizens to join their invasive campaign against Ukraine.

Recruiters target former police and army officers, as well as civilians aged between the mid-20s to 50 years old. They promise high salaries, bonuses for signing contracts and Russian citizenships.

"Kenyans leave the country on tourist visas to join the Russian army through Istanbul, Türkiye as well as Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. However, due to increased interception of these travelers in Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, the recruits have changed tact and are travelling through Uganda, DRC and South Africa to avoid detection" - stated Ichung'wah in his speech.

According to Ichung'wah, the recruitment agencies colluded with local airport security personnel, law enforcement officials and the Russian embassy in Nairobi to avoid interception in Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Loca TV channel "Citizet TV Kenya" states that "the recruitment is now classified as an organised transnational trafficking syndicate".

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

# FEBRUARY 2026

## INSIGHTS INTO RUSSIAN CASUALTIES

### BY "I WANT TO FIND"

"I WANT TO FIND" IS DEDICATED TO LOCATING SERVICEMEN OF THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES IN UKRAINE. FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE SERVICEMEN CONTACT THE PROJECT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR MISSING RELATIVES HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ACTION OR TAKEN CAPTIVE.



Since its launch in January 2024, the project has received 168,371 applications from family members and friends of Russian servicemen. In January 2026 alone, 8,241 applications were submitted.

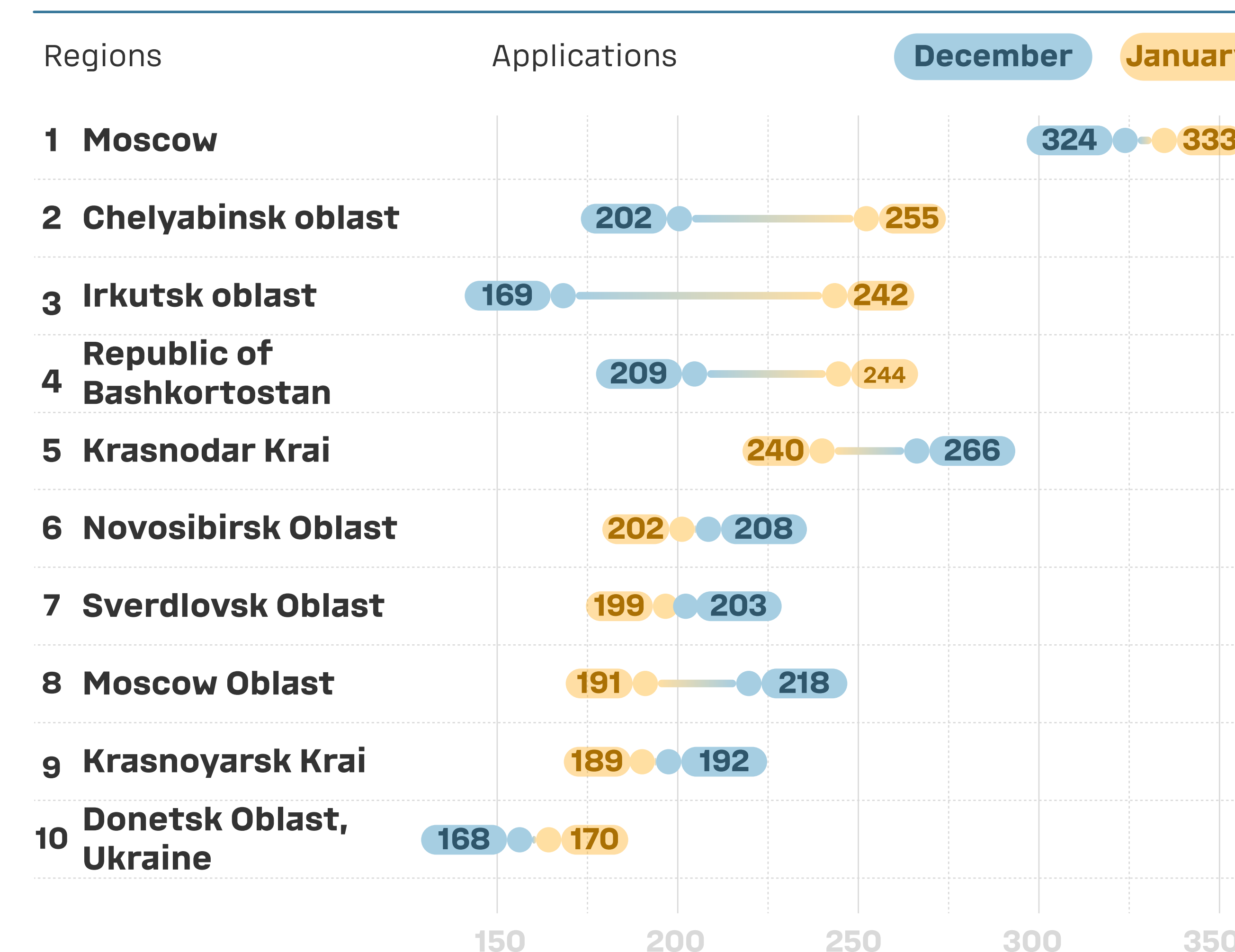
"With the help of the project, Russian families have learned the fate of 3,605 servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces. Of these, 3,460 were found to be in Ukrainian captivity, while 145 families were informed that their relatives had been killed in action.

In January 2026, most applications came from Moscow (333 requests to search for missing servicemen). Chelyabinsk and Irkutsk oblasts and the Republic of Bashkortostan followed. Compared to December 2025, applications from these regions increased significantly.

170 applications came from Donetsk, Ukraine, once again revealing a systematic violation of international humanitarian law by Russia. Under Article 51 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, an occupying power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces, nor use pressure or propaganda to secure enlistment. This prohibition applies to citizens of occupied territory, who cannot be legally recruited into the invading power's armed forces.

### TOP 10 REGIONS BY NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO THE "I WANT TO FIND" PROJECT

JANUARY 2026



\*Based on the data provided in 8,241 applications for locating the missing Russian Armed Forces servicemen received by "I Want to Find" in January 2026.

Хочу найти

Единый центр поиска  
военнослужащих  
армии РФ в Украине

Submit application  
for search

[t.me/hochunaiti\\_bot](https://t.me/hochunaiti_bot)

"I Want to Find"  
official website

[hochunaiti.com/en](https://hochunaiti.com/en)

# FEBRUARY 2026

## FOREIGN MERCENARIES RECRUITED BY RUSSIA - INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS



### "The Business of Despair" - Russian Recruitment in Africa

A Swiss NGO INPACT conducted an investigation into Russian army recruitment practices across Africa. The report shows how Russian recruiters use deception and coercion, exploiting socio-economic vulnerabilities to enlist African nationals in Russia's military campaign. After signing their contracts, the recruits are rapidly deployed to the war zone where they often get killed or, if lucky, captured by Ukrainian units.

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### How Russia Is Recruiting Central Asian Women For Its War In Ukraine

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports on Central Asian women who join the Russian Armed Forces. Many are getting arrested on fabricated charges and promised amnesty or recruited with assurances of non-combat roles such as nurses or cooks but reportedly end up in combat positions.

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### Russian Scam in Egypt: From Russian Trap to Ukrainian Captivity

An in-depth investigation of Russian Recruitment activities in Egypt by Masrawy - an Egyptian online news portal. The investigation uncovers the full process of recruitment conducted by Russian agents posing as "brokers" in Egypt who scam locals with promises of jobs unrelated to military activities. Some of the victims of the scam ended up in of the POW detention facilities in Ukraine, many of them were killed in action.

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# FEBRUARY 2026

## COORDINATION HEADQUARTERS KEY RESULTS



### 6422

**Ukrainian Defenders and civilians released from captivity since 2022.**

**The latest POW exchange was held on 5 February 2026. 157 Ukrainian Defenders and civilians returned home that day.**

### 17747

**Bodies of Ukrainian Defenders were returned back home since 2022.**

**The latest repatriation was carried out on 26 February 2026 when 1000 bodies were transferred to Ukraine.**



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