



**Vatnik Soup** @P\_Kallioniemi

Feb 18, 2026 · 8 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/2024101197230088367](#)

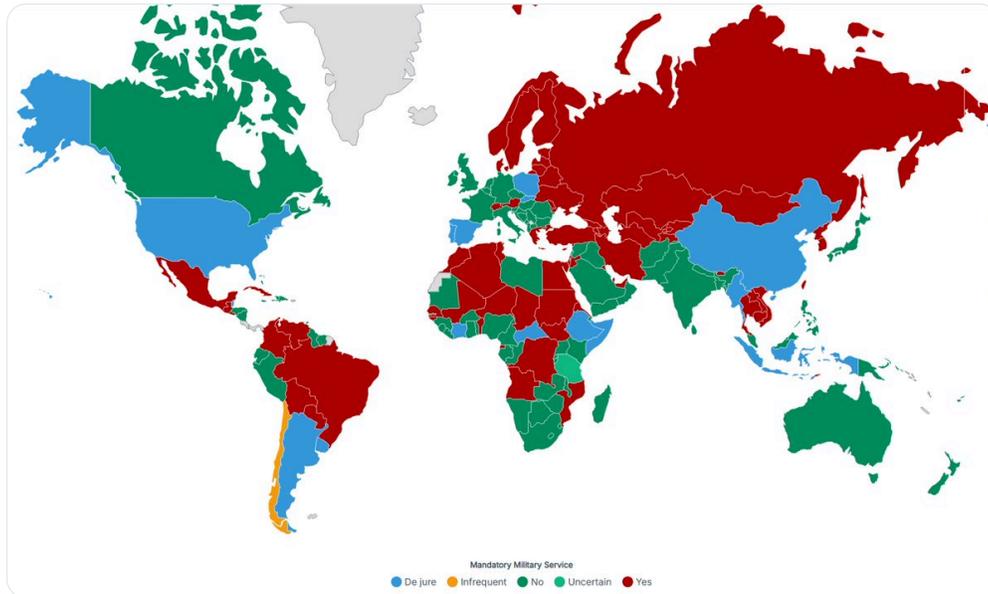
In this 6th Debunk of the Day, we'll talk about a complex and controversial topic: conscription. It is used by vatniks to attack Ukraine for drafting men to fight, while conveniently ignoring the alternative, including the horrors of conscription into the Russian army.

1/8



Military obligations are a reality in many countries, from the most peaceful democracies to the most tyrannical dictatorships – unless you have “bone spurs”. Some argue it is a necessity for defense against invading armies, especially for small countries.

2/8



Others point out that it goes against individual rights or that a professional army is better. And Zelenskyy might agree: he did in fact end conscription. But then a full-scale invasion happened: exactly why many nations, including the US, still keep some form of draft.



In order to ensure state sovereignty, protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, strengthen the state's defense capability, and develop the professional component of the Armed Forces of Ukraine **i decide**:

1. Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

(1) take measures in accordance with the established procedure to unconditionally fulfill the requirements of Article 35 of the Law of Ukraine «On National Security of Ukraine» during the formation of the Budget Declaration for 2023 – 2025;

(2) ensure the preparation and submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine draft laws regarding:

amendments to the Law of Ukraine «On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2022», providing funding for the gradual increase in the financial support of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to the level determined by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated December 30, 2021 № 688/2021 «On additional measures to ensure social guarantees of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine»;

a phased increase in the strength of the Armed Forces of Ukraine between 2022 and 2025 by 100,000 people to increase the state's defense capabilities;

introduction of the model of an intensive system of military training as a possible alternative form of military service and **termination of conscription of Ukrainian citizens for military service from January 1, 2024.**

2. Ministry of Defense of Ukraine:

(1) to develop the concept of gradual transition to the formation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on a professional basis, providing:

increasing the duration of contracts;

an increase in the financial support of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who conclude long-term contracts during 2023 to the level of at least three times the minimum wage;

formation of a system of special training and retraining of servicemen who have concluded long-term contracts;

(2) to speed up the development and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of the draft concept of providing housing for servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and their family members, providing for the introduction of a special accumulation program for servicemen to receive their own housing;

(W) To ensure, during the implementation of the military personnel policy, the implementation of a transparent career growth system for members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, built on a rating assessment.

3. This Decree shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

**President of Ukraine V. ZELENSKYI**

**February 1, 2022**

## ***Supreme Court Won't Hear Case on Limiting Military Draft to Men***

The justices had been asked to decide whether one of the last sex-based distinctions in federal law should survive now that women can serve in combat.



Women Marine recruits training at Parris Island in South Carolina last year. Hilary Swift for The New York Times



By **Adam Liptak**

June 7, 2021

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday [declined to hear a challenge](#) to a federal law that requires only men to register for the military draft.

As is the court's custom, it gave no reasons for turning down the case. But three justices issued a statement saying that Congress should be allowed more time to consider what they acknowledged was a significant legal issue.

While some Ukrainians did flee to avoid conscription, many others volunteered, including men and women returning from abroad.

Ukraine is facing a genocidal invasion and would neither need nor have conscription if Russia hadn't invaded in 2014 and 2022.



Tymofiy Mylovanov ✓

@Mylovanov · Follow



From Morgan Stanley to the front line.

At 22, Ukrainian Viktoriia Honcharuk had a Manhattan banking job, Midtown apartment. Two weeks later, she was evacuating wounded soldiers under Russian fire, NY Post. 1/



5:57 PM · Feb 2, 2026



♥ 14.8K    Reply    Copy link

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For Russia conversely, both conscription and the war are a deliberate choice. Russian conscripts are brutally hazed (“dedovshchina”), and while Putin initially denied that conscripts would be sent to the front, refuseniks now face 10 years in prison and inhumane punishments.

5/8

# Russia's Military Cruelty Begins With Its Own Conscripts

Brutal hazing breaks and humiliates Russian soldiers—and they take it out on civilians.

DECEMBER 10, 2023, 6:00 AM

By **Kristaps Andrejsons**, a journalist in Latvia and the creator of The Eastern Border podcast.



Russian soldiers train at a military camp in 1991. DAVID TURNLEY/CORBIS/VIA GETTY IMAGES

In early 2006, Russian Pvt. [Andrei Sychyov](#) had his legs and genitals amputated from frostbite after he and at least seven other conscripts were forced to squat in the snow for hours during New Year's Eve celebrations, during which they were brutally beaten. It took three days for him to get any medical aid. In 2018, Pvt. Artyom Pakhotin had the word *petukh*—meaning rooster (figuratively, "prison bitch")—carved into his forehead as a punishment for smoking in the barracks. Two weeks later, he killed himself with his AK. On Oct. 25, 2019, conscript Ramil Shamsutdinov [opened fire](#) on fellow soldiers, killing eight of them, after what he said was a [prolonged period](#) of beatings and threats of rapes.

Every six months, approximately 130,000 Russian conscripts are [called up](#) for their year of service, where most of them will face sadistic hazing. In Russian, it's called *dedovshchina*, a brutal internal army regime that began in Soviet times but is thoroughly embedded in modern military culture. Western militaries have worked hard to reduce [bullying](#) and [hazing](#) in the ranks with some, but not [complete](#), success. But in Russia's

## Ukraine war: Hundreds arrested as Russian draft protests continue

25 September 2022

**Matt Murphy**  
BBC News



**Hundreds of people have been arrested by authorities as protests against Russia's new "partial mobilisation" continue across the country, an independent rights group has said.**

OVD-Info said 724 people were detained across 32 different cities on Saturday.

Widespread demonstrations have broken out since President Vladimir Putin announced plans to draft 300,000 men to fight in Ukraine.

Unsanctioned rallies are banned under Russian law.

But Mr Putin's move to draft civilians into the military has sparked large scale protests in urban areas, with more than 1,000 people being detained at demonstrations earlier this week.

In Moscow, news agency AFP reported witnessing one demonstrator shouting "we are not cannon fodder" as she was arrested by officers.

And in St Petersburg, Russia's second city, one man told reporters: "I don't want to go to war for Putin."

# Under new law, Russian troops face 10 years in jail for surrender, refusal to fight

Putin stiffens punishments days after announcing huge reservist call-up, sparking rare public protests; deputy defense minister replaced amid Ukrainian territorial gains

By **AFP**

24 September 2022, 10:26 pm



Police officers detain a man in Saint Petersburg on September 24, 2022, following calls to protest against the partial mobilization announced by the Russian President. (AFP)

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia on Saturday toughened penalties for voluntary surrender and refusal to fight with up to 10 years imprisonment, and replaced its top logistics general after a series of setbacks to its seven-month war in Ukraine.

The tough new amendments and personnel change come days after Russia instigated partial mobilization with Kyiv taking back more and more territory in a counter-offensive.

It also comes as Kremlin-held regions of eastern and southern Ukraine voted for a second day on becoming part of Russia, dramatically raising the stakes.

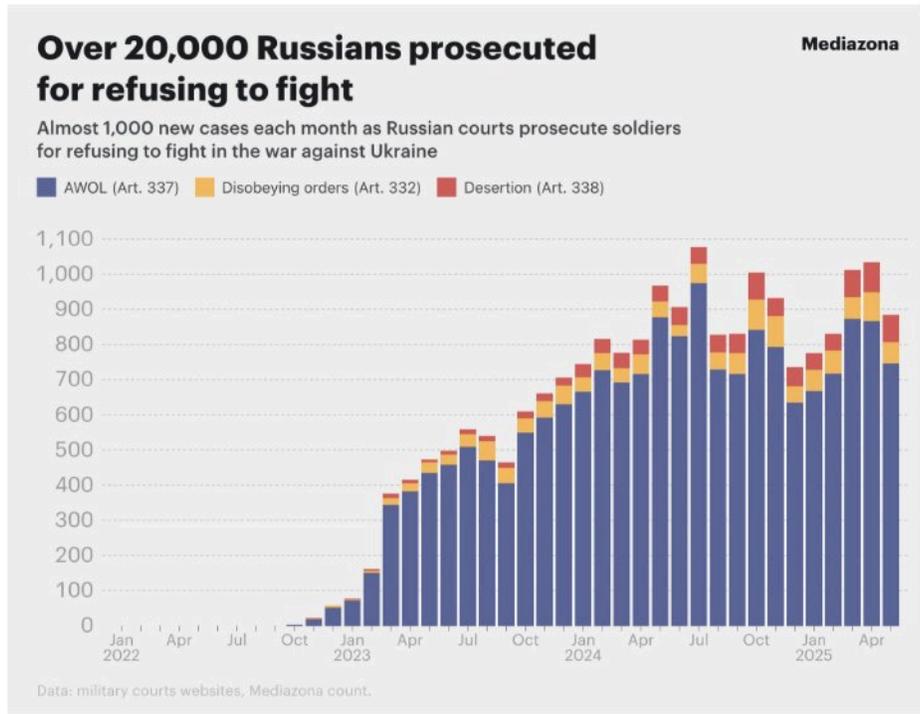
Integrating the four regions into Russia would mean that Moscow would consider any military move there as an attack on its own territory.

Russia's invasion, launched on February 24, and Ukraine's recent gains have laid bare flaws, with some analysts seeing logistics as the weak link in Moscow's army.

More than three years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, military courts across the country have registered over 20,000 criminal cases against soldiers accused of refusing to serve, according to court data compiled by *Mediazona*.

The majority of these prosecutions, a total of 18,159 cases, fall under Article 337 of the Russian Criminal Code, which deals with unauthorised absence from a military unit. Since the start of "partial mobilisation" in 2022, legal amendments have increased the maximum penalty to ten years in prison.

A further 1,369 cases involve charges under Article 332 for disobeying a direct order. This is a lighter offence and carries a maximum sentence of three years. Another 1,010 soldiers have been charged with desertion under Article 338, which is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.



And Russia also forces Ukrainians from occupied territories to fight against their own country: yet another war crime.

So yes, in an ideal world Ukraine wouldn't be conscripting anyone. But right now, the alternative could end up far worse: men would get drafted anyway...

## How Russia recruits troops in occupied Ukrainian territories

Alexey Strelnikov | Oleksandr Kunyzykij  
04/19/2025

Forcibly conscripting soldiers to fight for an occupying power is a war crime. DW spoke with human rights activists and Ukrainians about how residents are being pressured into military service by their invaders.



Russian army conscription is at its highest in over a decade

Image: /Russian Defence Ministry/TASS/dpa/picture alliance

This spring marks the highest rate of military conscription that Russia has seen in 14 years. In late March, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) issued a decree ordering 160,000 men aged 18 to 30 to be called up. Their year of service began on April 10.

Russia's Defense Ministry claims that the latest round of conscription, which takes place biannually in spring and autumn, has nothing to do with the [war against Ukraine](#). But men in the Russian-occupied regions of [Donetsk](#), [Luhansk](#), [Zaporizhzhia](#) and [Kherson](#) are also being drafted.

According to Ukraine's Eastern Human Rights Group (EHRG), at least 300 people from the occupied territories were conscripted into the Russian army in fall 2024, including around 200 from the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, and 100 from the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

### Few options in occupied territories

"If I'm forcibly mobilized, I'll shoot myself," says Oleksii (name changed). The 21-year-old lives in the Russian-occupied part of Zaporizhzhia, where he wants to stay with his family. "I would have to start my life all over again," he says.

The Telegraph

## Russia forces kidnapped Ukrainian children to build drones

Research by Yale University reveals eight different types of facilities, including a military base, where the children have been held



Kidnapped Ukrainian children have undergone 're-education and military training'



**Joe Barnes**  
Brussels Correspondent

16 September 2025 5:00am BST

Stolen Ukrainian children were put to work in factories to produce drones and other military hardware for Russia's armed forces, according to a report.

A Yale University humanitarian research lab study details 210 facilities used by Russia to kidnap, deport, re-educate and forcibly adopt tens of thousands of Ukrainian children.

It outlines eight different types of facilities, including a military base, where the children have been held as part of Russia's programme of coerced adoption and fostering.

Yale's latest findings continue to highlight the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia at the behest of Vladimir Putin.

The Russian president is already facing an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court for lesser charges.

...but to fight for Russia, civilians wouldn't be protected, and more children would be kidnapped—and sent to fight against Russia's next target, which could be you. More European countries are in fact reintroducing conscription due to the risk of further Russian aggression.

June 17, 2025

## *Russia Is Turning Abducted Ukrainian Children Into Soldiers*

By Vladyslav Havrylov, Collaborative Fellow, Collaborative on Global Children's Issues

### War Crimes Against Ukrainian Children Are at Risk of Being Insufficiently Investigated

As Russia's war in Ukraine continues into its third year and peace negotiations are failing, one of the most urgent issues remains the fate of the thousands of Ukrainian children who have been abducted and militarized by Russia. These crimes represent an egregious violation of international law and threaten the future of Ukraine's youngest generation. As such, understanding, addressing, and prioritizing this issue in future peace negotiations is critical.

#### Forcible Deportation

The Russian government is forcibly deporting and militarizing Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied territories in Ukraine. The first step of this crime involves the illegal and forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia, where they are [placed](#) in "temporary accommodation centers." While Ukraine has officially [identified](#) 19,546 cases of forcible deportations, [Ukraine's 5 AM Coalition](#) estimates the true number could range from 260,000 to 700,000. As of June 2025, only 1,359 children have been [returned](#). Russian authorities target both orphans and children with parents, often under the pretense of sending them to "rehabilitation" camps. Every instance of these crimes committed by the Russian authorities and their accomplices in the occupied territories must be comprehensively documented. Without meticulous records, the possibility of achieving justice, international legal accountability, and the reunification of Ukrainian children and families is severely undermined and peace negotiations will be impossible.

#### Russia's "Youth Army" and Militarization

The second step of these Russian crimes is forced ideological re-education, military training, and participation in paramilitary organizations such as the "Yunarmiya," "Movement of the First," and "Eagles of Russia." Through these groups, children are indoctrinated with Russian patriotism and receive training in firearms, tactics, and drone operations. These actions are intended to prepare Ukrainian children to fight against their own country as members of the Russian military.

## Europe turns to conscription as threat of wider war with Russia grows

By Radina Gigova, CNN

🕒 8 min read · Published 12:00 AM EDT, Sun July 21, 2024



Members of the Norwegian Army participate in a military exercise called "Cold Response 2022" amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, near Bjerkvik in the Arctic Circle, Norway, March 24, 2022. Yves Herman/Reuters

**(CNN)** — Before Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, many, including Kyiv, were skeptical that a major war could return to Europe. More than two years on, another shift once unthinkable is underway on conscription.

Several European nations have reintroduced or expanded compulsory military service amid Moscow's mounting threat, part of a range of policies aimed at boosting defenses that are likely to be scaled up even further.

"We are coming to the realization that we may have to adjust the way we mobilize for war and adjust the way we produce military equipment and we recruit and train personnel," said Robert Hamilton, head of Eurasia research at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, who served as a US Army officer for 30 years.

"It is tragically true that here we are, in 2024, and we are grappling with the questions of how to mobilize millions of people to be thrown into a meatgrinder of a war potentially, but this is where Russia has put us," he said.

The risks for a larger war in Europe have been rising after Russian President Vladimir Putin "finally resorted to open conflict" in Ukraine, pursuing his aim to "recreate the Soviet empire," said Gen. Wesley Clark (Ret.), who served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

"So we've now got a war in Europe that we never thought we would see again," said Clark, who led NATO forces during the Kosovo War. "Whether this is a new Cold War or an emerging hot war is unclear," he continued, but "it's a very imminent warning to NATO that we've got to rebuild our defenses."



February 11, 2026

**Already fighting against Ukraine: how children in occupied Luhansk are being prepared for service in the Russian army**



Teenagers at a lyceum established by the occupying authorities

Children study here from the 5th through to the 11th grade. After graduation, cadets go into public service, military universities, or directly into the army, where some of them participate in the war against Ukraine as part of Cossack formations.

Don't want Ukrainians or your children to be conscripted in this war or the next one? Then make sure Ukraine gets all the equipment, air defense and air support they need, now.

And help us defeat the massive propaganda that makes this war possible:

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