



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Jun 26, 2025 · 25 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1938237244537479275](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup and the "Degenerate Russia" series, I'll show you the brutal reality of Russian war crimes, in particular the horrific tortures and sexual abuses of children, women and men.

Buckle up, this one is not for the faint-hearted.

1/24



For over a decade now and as part of their "firehose of falsehood" propaganda strategy, Russia has been spreading false narratives targeted at right-wing/conservative audiences, portraying Russia as a bastion of Christian, traditional, family values.

2/24



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
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In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll start a new series titled "Degenerate Russia". In it, we look behind the Kremlin propaganda and see the real Russia – an authoritarian country that doesn't care about its people and desperately tries to hold on to its imperialistic past.

1/22



12:03 PM · Mar 18, 2025



6K



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In the previous "degenerate Russia" series we discussed Russia's insanely high divorce rates, rampant domestic violence, high murder rates, thriving neo-Nazi culture, corruption of the Orthodox Church, and their massive demographic problem:

3/24



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In today's Vatik Soup, I'll continue the "Degenerate Russia" series. In it, we look behind the Kremlin propaganda and see the real Russia – an authoritarian country that doesn't care about its people and desperately tries to hold on to its imperialistic past.

1/18



1:29 PM · Mar 19, 2025



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In this soup, I'll peel off yet another layer of Kremlin's propaganda, showing the harsh reality of the Russian "culture", which resembles more the barbaric Mongol rule rather than the "traditional, conservative Orthodox culture" they claim to represent.

4/24

Putin calls for a project to promote 'traditional Russian values' overseas



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Speaker of the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian Parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin and Speaker of the Federation Council, the Upper House of the Russian Parliament, Vali [Read More](#)

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called for the government to develop a program for overseas promotion of “traditional Russian spiritual and moral values,” a theme that the Kremlin has increasingly sounded in recent years.

In an order published on the Kremlin website, Putin instructed officials responsible for national projects to allot an unspecified amount of money for a program called “Russia in the World.”

The program would be aimed toward “developing international youth cooperation and promoting traditional Russian spiritual and moral values abroad,” the order said.



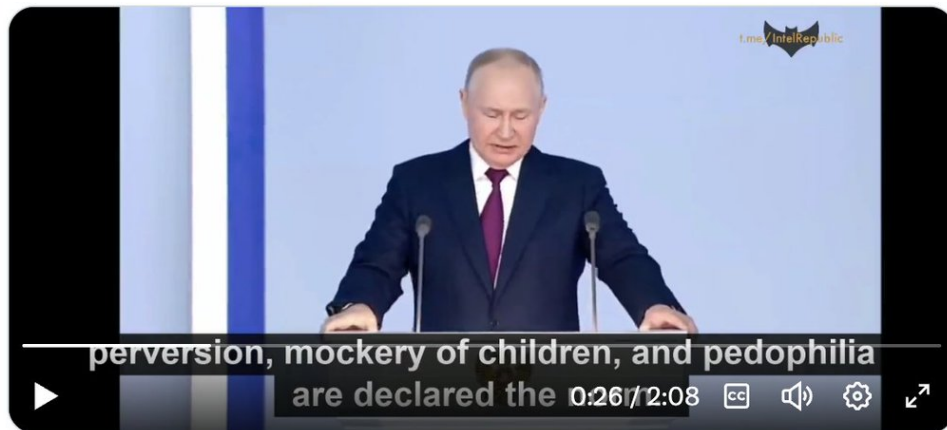
LIZ CROKIN ✓
@LizCrokin

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THREAD: Highlights from President Putin's speech today where he calls out the West's normalization of pedophilia

- "See what they do with their own peoples - the destruction of the family, cultural and national identity, perversion, mockery of children and pedophilia are declared the norm."
- "Look at the Holy Scriptures...the family is a union of a man and a woman."
- "The Anglican Church, for example, considers the idea of a gender-neutral God...forgive us, Lord, for they don't know what they do."
- "We must protect our children."



The discrepancy between the propaganda headlines spreading on social media and reality about Russia's sexual abuses is stark. For example, Russia is one of the few countries that hasn't criminalized the possession of child pornography or domestic violence.



Putin's Other War: Domestic Violence, Traditional Values, and Masculinity in Modern Russia

03.AUG.2022 · 8 MIN READ

Margarita Gracheva asked for protection. Law enforcement failed her.

After her husband had dragged her into the woods behind their home and threatened her with a knife, the mother of two called the police. It was not the first time she had reported abuse, but, under Russian law, her abuser could not be arrested unless the abuse was so violent that she would be hospitalized. Three months later, the police received a call saying that Gracheva's hands had been cut off with an ax. Only then was her husband arrested.



Kay Rollins

Kay Rollins is a staff writer for the HIR. She is interested in national security, great power conflict, and authoritarianism. She is a sophomore concentrating in Government with a minor in History.

Activists Accuse Russian Authorities Of Turning A Blind Eye To Domestic Violence

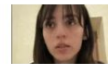


Moscow protesters against the 2017 partial decriminalization of domestic violence hold a placard reading: "Violence is not our tradition!"

Earlier this month, a pregnant woman in Makhachkala, the capital of Russia's North Caucasus region of Daghestan, complained to be police about her abusive husband. She told them he beat her, stole her money, and threatened to kill her.

"The officers responded by saying they don't come between a husband and his wife," the woman told RFE/RL.*

Related



Chechen Teen Flees Russia
Complaining Of Domestic
Violence

Russia: Where keeping child porn is legal

June 02, 2011 | By Paula Newton, CNN

Keen, bright-eyed and earnest, the little boy answers the Russian investigator's questions enthusiastically, as if describing a cartoon, not sexual abuse.

"He took off my underwear and photographed me," says the victim, whom Russian authorities are not allowing to be identified.

The boy goes on to describe sexual abuse at the hands of his own father. Without this testimony, child advocates say, it would be impossible to convict the man, whose trial begins later this year.

In Russia, possessing child pornography is not a crime and laws that govern child exploitation are weak. Government authorities say the majority of sexual crimes against children are never reported or investigated.

Those are among the reasons that even the Russian government admits the country is a world leader in the production of child pornography.

Russia parliament votes 380-3 to decriminalize domestic violence

DOUG STANGLIN | USATODAY

Russia's parliament voted 380-3 on Friday to decriminalize domestic violence in cases where it does not cause "substantial bodily harm" and does not occur more than once a year.

The move, which eliminates criminal liability in such cases, makes a violation punishable by a fine of roughly \$500, or a 15-day arrest, provided there is no repeat within 12 months.

The bill now goes to the rubber-stamp upper chamber, where no opposition is expected. It then must be signed by President Vladimir Putin, who has signaled his support.

In 2021, leaked videos showed systemic torture and rape in Russian jails, and Russian forces often apply the same rules in the army as in prisons. In Nov 2022, the late Yevgeny Prigozhin, may he rot in Hell, even wanted to create...

6/24

https://x.com/ChrisO_wiki/status/16380838418427166741

'Unprecedented' Video Leak Shows Rampant Torture at Russian Prisons – NGO

By Pjotr Sauer
Oct. 6, 2021



Yevgeny Yepanchintsev / TASS

... a separate “cock division” consisting of low-level prisoners who were acting as sex slaves for other, higher ranking convicts in Russian prisons. For more information on Russia’s prison hierarchy, read this fantastic thread by @ChrisO_Wiki:



ChrisO_wiki ✓
@ChrisO_wiki · [Follow](#)



1/ Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the notorious Wagner mercenary group, says that he is not currently recruiting anally raped prisoners but wants to create a separate "cock division" to ensure that other convict soldiers do not have to serve with such untouchable outcasts. [↓](#)



12:44 AM · Nov 17, 2022



3.9K



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Ex-inmates reveal details of Russia prison rape scandal

10 August 2022

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Eye Investigations & Olga Prosvirova & Oleg Boldyrev
BBC News



Alexei Makarov says prison staff knew about the abuse he suffered

Former inmates have spoken to the BBC about being systematically raped and tortured in Russian prisons. Leaked footage of such abuse was circulated by an insider last year, and now victims have told the BBC why it happens and how they are fighting for justice.

Warning: This article contains graphic images and descriptions of sexual abuse and violence

Saratov prison hospital, in south-west Russia, came to public attention last year when videos of horrifying prisoner abuse were leaked to a human rights organisation and reported on by the international media.

Alexei Makarov knew its reputation before he was transferred there in 2018 as part of a six-year sentence for assault. Prisoners who are sent to Saratov from other jails in the region have complained that medical grounds were fabricated so they could be tortured behind closed doors. Russian prisons have almost no independent oversight, and prison hospitals - with their health quarantine rules - even less so.

Wagner mercenaries are 'raping, kidnapping and torturing RUSSIAN soldiers': Astonishing claim by one of Putin's officers who was captured by Yevgeny Prigozhin's men

• Lt Colonel Roman Venevitin claimed Wagner mercenaries raped Russian troops

By [RACHAEL BUNYAN](#) and [WILL STEWART](#)

PUBLISHED: 08:06 GMT, 9 June 2023 | UPDATED: 11:07 GMT, 9 June 2023



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A Russian colonel has claimed Wagner mercenaries are raping, kidnapping and torturing Vladimir [Putin](#)'s soldiers.

Lieutenant colonel Roman Venevitin, who was captured near the embattled Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, claimed he was tortured by Wagner mercenaries, despite being on the same side of [Russia](#)'s war.

'Wagner mercenaries stole two T-80 tanks, 4 cannons, a KAMAZ truck and armoured vehicles,' Venevitin said. 'The Wagner mercenaries took them as war trophies [even though we are supposed to be on the same side].'

In an extraordinary claim, Venevitin said: 'There were kidnappings of our servicemen, when they were physically abused and humiliated. One of our battalion's petty officers was kidnapped and tortured.

'He was kept naked on a cold floor in a basement.'

Prigozhin's PMC Wagner, a Russian state-funded, internationally recognized criminal/terrorist organization, has now rebranded as the no-less-nazi-themed "Afrika Korps". They are infamous for their brutality and sexual violence in Syria, Africa and Ukraine.

'They turn our farms into rape centres': Russian mercenaries accused of abuse in Central African Republic

A rise in sexual violence means food prices have leapt in CAR as women and girls say they fear working in the fields

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About this content

Philip Obaji Jr in Bouar

Tue 23 Jul 2024 14.24 BST

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📷 Koko was 17 when she and her 15-year-old sister were raped in her family's fields in Central African Republic. Her sister was also badly beaten by the men. Photograph: Philip Obaji Jr

The two sisters had just arrived at their family's field when two Russian mercenaries showed up. They held the girls at gunpoint and took turns raping them. "We told them we were virgins and begged them not to touch us. But they wouldn't listen," says Koko*.

She was 17 when the attack happened on a Saturday morning last September in the family's field of yams and cassava in Ngaguene village, near the **Central African Republic** (CAR) town of Bouar.

"Whenever we tried to scream for help, they used their hands to cover our mouths so that nobody could hear us," she says.

• This article is more than 1 year old

Russian mercenaries behind slaughter of 500 in Mali village, UN report finds

Report implicates Wagner group fighters in Moura atrocity, including the torture and rape of civilians



Three Russian mercenaries and a Malian soldier on patrol in northern Mali in January 2022. Photograph: AP

Jason Burke

Sat 20 May 2023 15:19 BST

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First came a single helicopter, flying low over the marshes around the river outside the village, then the rattle of automatic fire scattered the crowds gathered for the weekly market.

Next came more helicopters, dropping troops off around the homes and cattle pens. The soldiers moved swiftly, ordering men into the centre of the village, gunning down those trying to escape. When some armed militants fired back, the shooting intensified. Soon at least 20 civilians and a dozen alleged members of an al-Qaida affiliated Islamist group, were dead.

Over the next five days, hundreds more would die in the village of Moura in the Mopti region of Mali at the hands of troops overseen by Russian mercenaries, according to a new [United Nations](#) report. All but a small fraction were unarmed civilians.

Teenage Twins Say They Were Drugged and Raped by Putin's Rampaging Private Army

SICK AND TWISTED

A dozen girls have told The Daily Beast that they were kidnapped and sexually abused by Russian paramilitaries.



Philip Obaji Jr.

Published Jun. 21 2024 10:30PM EDT



EXCLUSIVE



Photo Illustration by Erin O'Flynn/The Daily Beast/Getty Images, Public Domain and Philip Obaji

Teenagers Say They Were Kidnapped and Raped by Putin's Private Army

'LIVING IN HELL'

Two school-aged girls have told The Daily Beast that they were repeatedly raped by Russian mercenaries after being forced to flee their homes.



Philip Obaji Jr. | Published Jul. 7 2022 4:53AM EDT



📷 Pierre Crom

EBAM, Cameroon—Ella* and Béatrice*—both 16—returned from visiting a friend earlier this year to discover that their homes were on fire.

Friends and neighbors, who had lost almost everything, were wailing uncontrollably as their whole compound in the Central African Republic village of Aïgbado was engulfed in flames.

It was Jan. 16, the day of an infamous massacre—first reported by The Daily Beast—when Putin's private army slaughtered more than 70 people in eastern CAR, setting homes ablaze and leaving hundreds homeless near a gold mine outside Aïgbado.

Through Wagner, Russia has sent thousands of convicted criminals, including murderers, rapists, and even cannibals, to fight in Ukraine. These men, many with histories of extreme violence, have then committed brutal war crimes against the Ukrainian civilian population.



Russian rapist and double murderer freed from prison for second time to fight in Ukraine

ej/rf 28.08.2024, 16:17



A Russian soldier in Crimea. Photo: Pierre Crom/Getty Images

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The Russian prison service has freed a dangerous inmate just a week after he was jailed for the brutal rape and murder of an 85-year-old woman, so he can fight on the frontline in Ukraine, the victim's family have said.



NEWS • SOCIETY

Convicted Russian cannibal released to fight in Ukraine returns home after being wounded

12:54 PM, 23 September 2024, **Novaya Gazeta Europe**



Dmitry Malyshev. Photo: Dmitry Malyshev / OK

Cannibalism in Russian army: soldier admits eating comrade

Russian war 20 June, 10:17 AM



Author: Demian Shevko

For Putin and Russia, hiring convicts for the meat grinder is just another way to get soldiers and lower the prison population. For the convicts, it's a coin toss — if they survive, they can go back to “society” and try to continue life as a civilian.

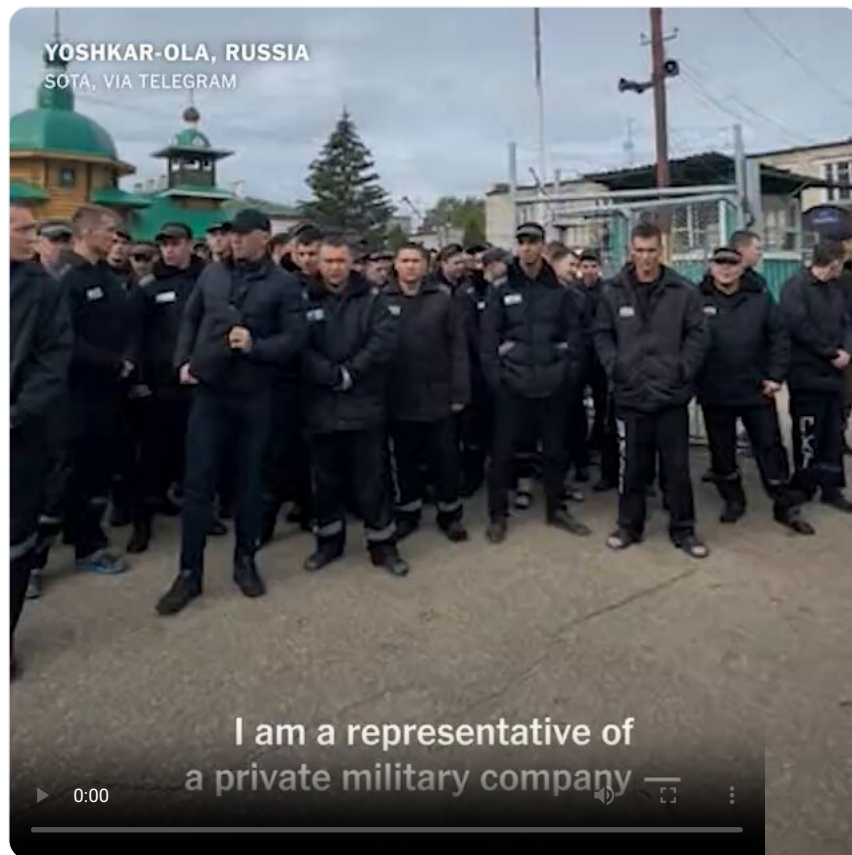
Russia mobilizes 40,000-45,000 troops per month, Ukraine 25,000-27,000, Zelensky says

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by Martin Fornusek and The Kyiv Independent news desk • May 28, 2025 11:21 AM • 2 min read



Russian soldiers take part in the 79th annual Victory Day military parade, which commemorates the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, in Red Square in Moscow, Russia, on May 9, 2024. Photo for illustrative purposes. (Sefa Karacan/Anadolu via Getty Images)



After their war crimes stint, the sentenced criminals are welcomed back as heroes. Wagnerite Viktor Taydakov, for example, once jailed for raping and murdering a 22-year-old girl, now works in schools teaching young girls.



Russian rapist pardoned by Putin so he could fight in Ukraine is detained again after 'sexually assaulting 14-year-old girl'

- Nikolai Nechaev, 38, was released last year so he could fight in Putin's war
- He allegedly offended again only three months after coming out of the army
- Russian news reports say he is hoping to be released from prison again to fight

By [JAMIE SHAPIRO](#) and [WILL STEWART](#)

PUBLISHED: 09:57 GMT, 28 February 2024 | UPDATED: 11:38 GMT, 28 February 2024



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A rapist freed from an eight year jail sentence and pardoned by Vladimir [Putin](#) so he could fight in Ukraine has been detained again after allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.

Nikolai Nechaev, 38, from the city of Perm, is the latest of dozens of prisoners, including murderers and rapists, freed by Putin, to have committed new offences after serving in his forces and having their jail terms personally annulled by the dictator.

Nechaev was previously convicted of a 2019 rape, among other crimes.

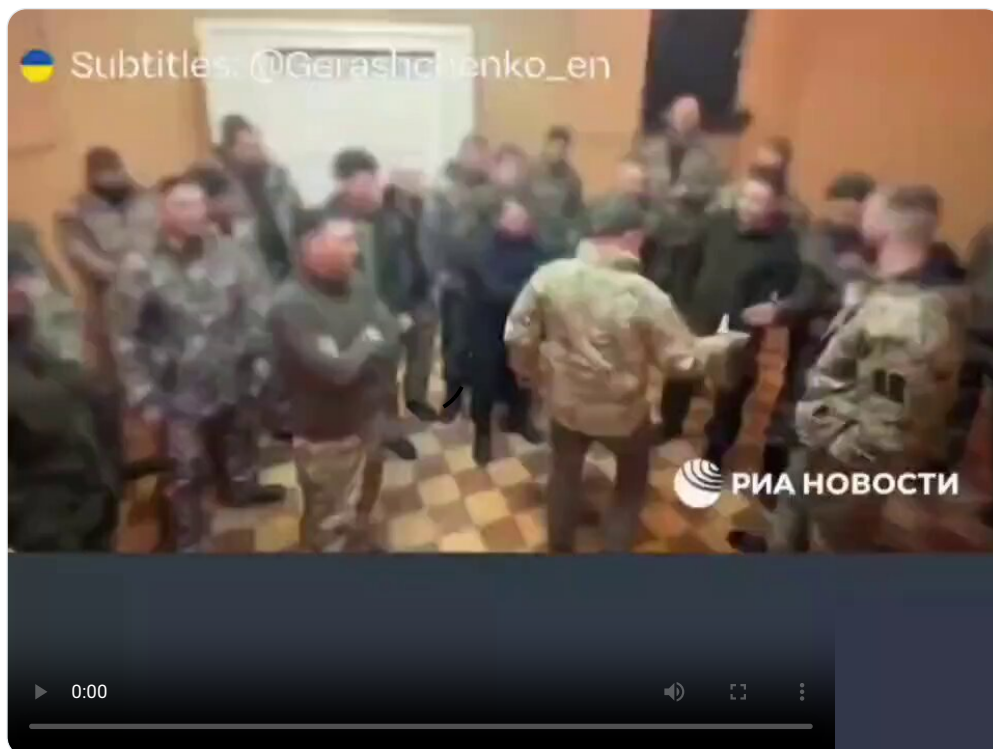
He fought for [Russia](#) in Ukraine for six months ending in November, when he was fully pardoned from his previous [crime](#).

Only three months later, in February, he is believed to have targeted his next victim.



When releasing them back in Russian society, Prigozhin gently asked them “not to drink too much” and “not to rape women”. But they are of course former criminals and war criminals, now carrying additional trauma from the war, and many soon return to crime.

12/24



Russian convicts released to fight with Wagner accused of new crimes

10 August 2023

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Arsenii Sokolov, Tim Whewell & Nina Nazarova
BBC World Service



Joint Press Service of Krasnodar Regional Courts

A prisoner believed to have been released early to fight with Wagner mercenaries in Ukraine has been accused of committing a double murder in Russia after returning home from the war.

Paedophile who fought for Putin rapes two girls aged ten and 12 after threatening to blow them up with a grenade the day after returning from Ukraine

- Wearing Wagner uniform he approached them near their school in Novosibirsk
- Alleged rapist - named only Sergei - was seen on a video on way to interrogation

By [WILL STEWART](#)

PUBLISHED: 14:21 GMT, 23 May 2023 | UPDATED: 20:09 GMT, 23 May 2023



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A soldier, 42, who fought for [Putin](#) in Ukraine raped two schoolgirls the day after he returned home from his military service, say police.

The suspected paedophile threatened girls aged ten and 12 that he would blow them up with a grenade unless they submitted to him.

Wearing the uniform of 'convicts' army [Wagner](#), he approached them near their school in Novosibirsk and forced them behind garages where he sexually attacked them.

The girls told their parents about the alleged rapes and said the man was wearing military fatigues and an insignia that matches Wagner private military company - showing a skull.

The so-called "Russian opposition" claims most Russians oppose Putin and support liberal democracy. Yet a recent poll ranked Putin in the top 3 greatest people of all times (with fellow genociders Lenin and Stalin), highlighting the gap between empty rhetoric and reality.

Yulia Navalnaya to the EU Parliament: 'Support Russians resisting the regime, Putin will fall'

Democratic opposition representatives call for funds for independent media, NGOs, and Russian digital initiatives. At the center, preparation for the post-Putin era



by **Marco La Rocca** — 5 June 2025 in World politics



Roberta METSOLA, EP President meets with Yulia NAVALNAYA, Alexei NAVALNY's wife

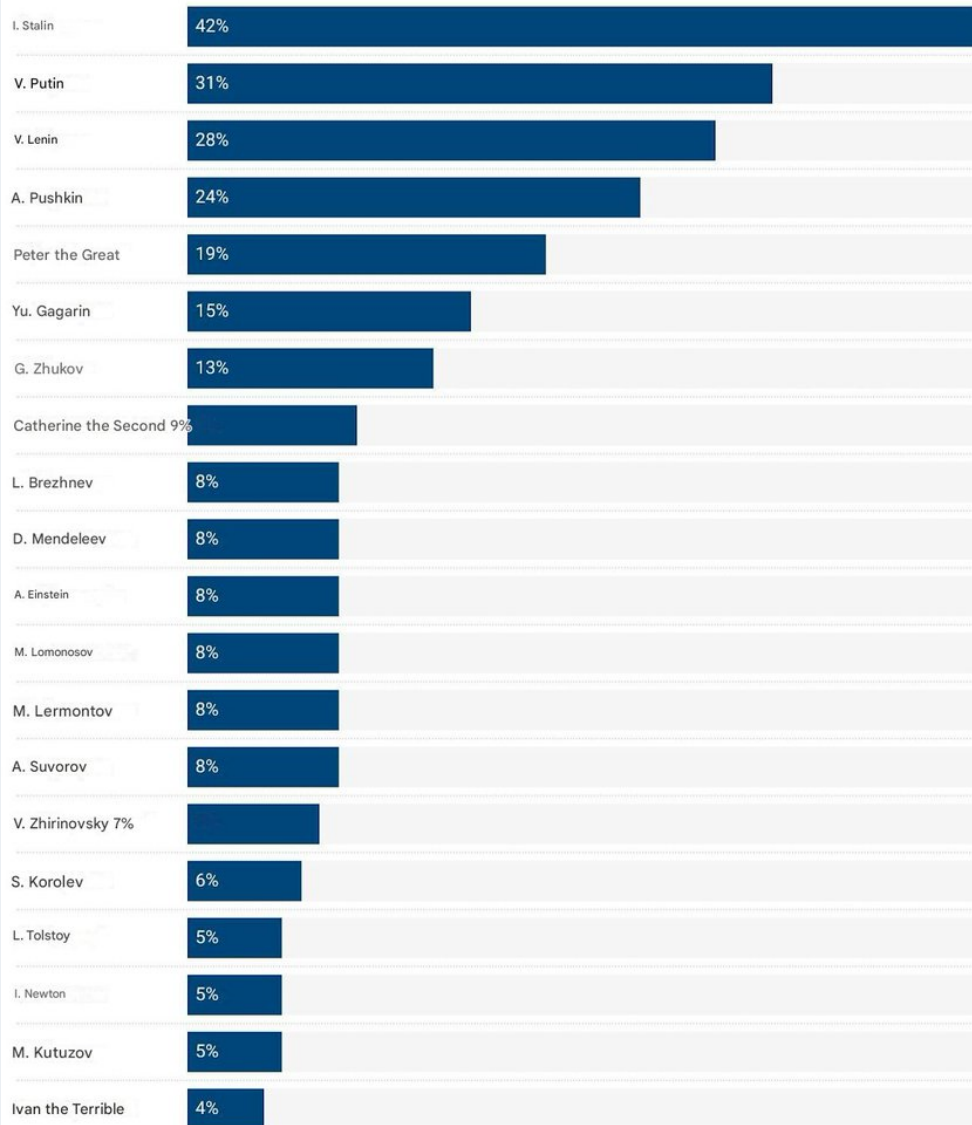
Brussels – As repression in Russia escalates, three opposition figures appeal to the EU not to abandon those still resisting. **Yulia Navalnaya**, widow of **Alexei Navalny**, **Vladimir Kara-Murza**, and **Ilya Yashin**, spoke in the European Parliament, calling for a change of approach in supporting **Russia's democratic forces**. These were not merely symbolic statements: the activists presented concrete indications of what they expected from the European institutions.

During the joint session of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Human Rights this morning (June 5), Navalnaya called on the EU to move beyond the stage of declarations and **start tangible support for Russian civil society**. In particular, she raised questions about the EUR 5.5 million **allocated** for **Radio Free Europe**, an American broadcaster, and asked why there was no similar funding for Russian media in exile. "Russian newspapers that have been operating outside the country for years, speaking to the public in Russian, doing vital work, and barely surviving. **Why are they not supported?**" she asked, offering a list of newspapers, activists, and specific projects.

According to Navalnaya, there are millions of Russian citizens opposed to the war in Ukraine, but to play a role, they should receive support now. Proposals include keeping the issue of **political prisoners** visible, offering aid to human rights defenders, supporting technologies such as VPN and free digital spaces, and strengthening connections with those acting within the country. "Small concrete projects are needed, **not just big proclamations**," she stressed.

Please name the ten most outstanding people of all time and nations.

Open-ended question, in % of respondents, April 2025

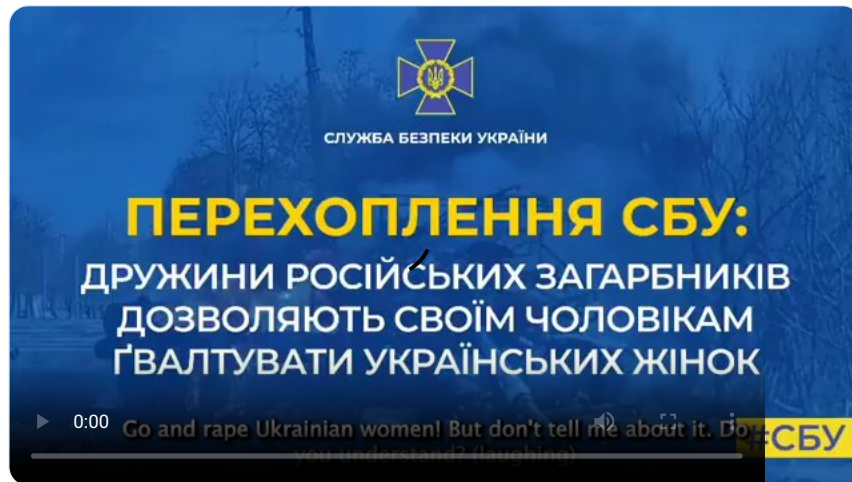


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18+

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Here's an example of "the great and profound Russian culture": an intercepted call where a Russian wife gives her soldier husband her permission to rape Ukrainian women. The Ukrainian-Canadian documentary "Intercepted" explores these chilling conversations in depth.



Sexual violence has long been used as a tool of oppression by Russian and Soviet forces. During World War II, Soviet soldiers were notorious for mass rapes in occupied territories, both in Germany and “liberated” Central and Eastern Europe.

'The Russian soldiers raped every German female from eight to 80'

Antony Beevor, author of the acclaimed new book about the fall of Berlin, on a massive war crime committed by the victorious Red Army

Antony Beevor

Wed 1 May 2002 11.47 BST

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"Red Army soldiers don't believe in 'individual liaisons' with German women," wrote the playwright Zakhar Agranenko in his diary when serving as an officer of marine infantry in East Prussia. "Nine, ten, twelve men at a time - they rape them on a collective basis."

The Soviet armies advancing into East Prussia in January 1945, in huge, long columns, were an extraordinary mixture of modern and medieval: tank troops in padded black helmets, Cossack cavalymen on shaggy mounts with loot strapped to the saddle, lend-lease Studebakers and Dodges towing light field guns, and then a second echelon in horse-drawn carts. The variety of character among the soldiers was almost as great as that of their military equipment. There were freebooters who drank and raped quite shamelessly, and there were idealistic, austere communists and members of the intelligentsia appalled by such behaviour.

Beria and Stalin, back in Moscow, knew perfectly well what was going on from a number of detailed reports. One stated that "many Germans declare that all German women in East Prussia who stayed behind were raped by Red Army soldiers". Numerous examples of gang rape were given - "girls under 18 and old women included".

The first speech of comrade I.V. Stalin.

Comrade Stalin said that he had heard much praise for the Red Army. Of course, one can admit, without boasting, that it is indeed a valiant, brave and glorious army, but it still has many shortcomings. It is a large army, it is waging a large war. Together with the people serving its immediate rear, it numbers approximately 12 million people. These 12 million people should think that they are all angels. different people. One should not

The Red Army entered Czechoslovakia and now the Czechoslovaks get to know it better, and get to know its shortcomings. The Red Army is moving forward, winning great victories, but it still has many shortcomings. The Red Army fought its way a long way from Stalingrad to the gates of Berlin. Its soldiers did not walk this way as tourists, they walked this way under fire, and they defeated the Germans. They think they are heroes. Almost all the Red Army soldiers think so, at least most of the Red Army soldiers. The less cultured people are, the more they think about it.

They think they are heroes and they think they can afford to indulge in excesses. They think they will be forgiven for these excesses because they are heroes. They have gone through enemy fire.

for a long and difficult journey, and each of them thinks that maybe tomorrow he will be struck down by an enemy bullet. Comrade Stalin said that these fighters often do outrageous things, rape girls.

Comrade Stalin said that he wants the Czechoslovaks not to be too enchanted by the Red Army, so that they will not be too disappointed later. He, Comrade Stalin, wants the Czechoslovaks to understand the psychology, to understand the soul of the ordinary Red Army soldier, so that they understand his experiences, that he, risking his life all the time, went through a long and difficult path. Comrade Stalin said that he raises his glass to the Czechoslovaks understanding and forgiving the Red Army soldiers.

This tradition has been passed on, and is now actively used in Ukraine. Ukrainian children, women and men have been sexually abused by Wagner mercenaries, regular Russian army and Chechnya's Akhmat fighters. The latter even mobilised queer men as sex slaves to the front.

Witnesses provided consistent accounts of ill-treatment and torture carried out during unlawful confinement. Interlocutors described beatings, electric shocks, and forced nudity, as well as other types of violations in detention facilities. After being reportedly transferred into detention in the Russian Federation, some victims had disappeared. In the four areas investigated, the Commission had processed two incidents of ill-treatment against Russian Federation soldiers by Ukrainian forces. While few in numbers, such cases continued to be the subject of the Commission's attention.

The Commission had found that some Russian Federation soldiers committed sexual and gender-based violence crimes. There were cases where relatives were forced to witness the crimes. The age of victims of sexual and gendered-based violence ranged from four to 82 years. The Commission had further documented cases in which children had been raped, tortured, unlawfully confined, killed and injured in indiscriminate attacks with explosive weapons. Exposure to repeated explosions, crimes, forced displacement and separation from family members deeply affected their well-being and mental health.

UN envoy: Russia uses rape as part of 'military strategy' in Ukraine

Pramila Patten says over 100 sexual assault cases verified amid Russian invasion, part of a deliberate tactic to 'dehumanize' Ukrainians

By **AFP**

14 October 2022, 2:31 pm | 0



Russian soldiers walk past a repainted city name in the colors of the Russian flag at the entrance of Mariupol, on the territory which is under the Government of the Donetsk People's Republic control, eastern Ukraine, June 12, 2022. (AP Photo)

PARIS — Rapes and sexual assaults attributed to Moscow's forces in Ukraine are part of a Russian "military strategy" and a "deliberate tactic to dehumanize the victims," UN envoy Pramila Patten told AFP.

"All the indications are there," the UN special representative on sexual violence told AFP on Thursday, when asked if rape was being used as a weapon of war in Ukraine.

"When women are held for days and raped, when you start to rape little boys and men, when you see a series of genital mutilations, when you hear women testify about Russian soldiers equipped with Viagra, it's clearly a military strategy," she said.

MORE

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Russian soldiers gang rape Ukrainian women, including little girls: witnesses of rape survivors



BY ORYSIA HRUDKA · 07/04/2022 · 10 MINUTE READ



Illustration by UN Women, Pozytuvni Zhinky. 22 March 2022. Source

Russian soldiers gang rape Ukrainian women threatening them with guns and knives in front of their children. One Russian rapist cut his victim's cheek, another killed a woman's husband, and another one killed the victim's mother. Among the most monstrous cases is the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl by 11 Russian soldiers.

CHECHNYA

Human rights organisation accuses Chechen Akhmat fighters of using mobilised queer men as sex slaves



by Elizaveta Chukharova

29 January 2025 (Updated: 5 months ago) • 4 min read

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Besides being sexually abused or castrated, Ukrainians POWs are tortured and starved, sometimes to death—if they were not outright executed when captured. If they survive, they still suffer from long-term damage and often die soon after their release in prisoner exchanges.

CHRISTINA LAMB

She thought she was unshockable, then two castrated Ukrainian soldiers arrived

Sexual violence against men is an under-reported part of the Ukraine war. A psychologist describes the impact on her patients of their torture by Russians



Two Ukrainian soldiers say they were castrated by drunken Russian troops after being taken prisoner. One has since rejoined the fighting as “he wants to kill Russians”

For a month the two men could not tell their psychologist what had happened to them, only that it was horrible beyond words. “If there’s hell somewhere, it’s worse than that,” said one.

The Ukrainian soldiers, aged 25 and 28, had been in Russian captivity — one for one month, the other for three.

Russia is executing more and more Ukrainian prisoners of war

22 December 2024

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Vitaliy Shevchenko
BBC Monitoring Russia editor



Oleksandr Matsievsky is now an iconic figure in Ukraine after his execution by Russian forces

Ukrainian sniper Oleksandr Matsievsky was captured by Russians in the first year of the full-scale invasion. Later, a video emerged showing him smoking his last cigarette in a forest, apparently next to a grave he had been forced to dig.

"Glory to Ukraine!" he says to his captors. Moments later, shots ring out and he falls dead.

His execution is one of many.

In October this year, nine captured Ukrainian soldiers were reportedly shot dead by Russian forces in Kursk region. Ukrainian prosecutors are investigating the case including a photo showing half-naked bodies lying on the ground. This photo was enough for one of the victims, drone operator Ruslan Holubenko, to be identified by his parents.

"I recognised him by his underwear," his distraught mother told local broadcaster Suspilne Chernihiv. "I bought it for him before a trip to the sea. I also knew that his shoulder had been shot through. You could see that in the picture."

Photos of released Ukrainian prisoners of war show emaciated bodies in ‘horrific’ condition

By Ivana Kottasová, Radina Gigova, Svitlana Vlasova and Daria Tarasova-Markina, CNN

🕒 2 minute read · Updated 4:15 PM EDT, Wed June 5, 2024



Roman Gorilyk was held captive by Russia for more than two years. The Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War

(CNN) — Roman Gorilyk is now little more than a skeleton. His ribs and collarbones are sticking out, his belly is sunken, his shoulder and hip joints clearly visible under his pale skin.

Gorilyk's extreme emaciation appears to be the result of the two years he spent in Russian captivity. The former checkpoint guard at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in northern Ukraine was detained by Russian troops in March 2022, shortly after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

He was finally released on Friday, one of 75 Ukrainians exchanged for 75 Russian prisoners of war.

Former Ukrainian POW dies month after being released from Russian captivity

June 22, 2025 11:40 am • 3 min read



by Natalia Yermak



Serhii Dobrovolskyi, a former Ukrainian POW released from Russian captivity at the end of May 2025, was met by his mother and citizens of his native town, Zdolbuniv, days before his unexpected death. (Zdolbuniv city council / Facebook)

Serhii Dobrovolskyi, a Ukrainian soldier who had been in Russian captivity since 2023, has died just a month after his release at the end of May as part of a 1000-for-1000 prisoner swap, an official from the soldier's home region announced on June 21.

The case is the latest in a chain of Ukrainian soldiers' unexpected deaths after their return from Russian captivity, highlighting the effects of "[widespread and systematic](#)" torture of prisoners of war (POWs) in Russian prisons, reported by the U.N.

"Serhii Dobrovolskyi was released from captivity at the end of May this year. A few days ago, he was met by his fellow townspeople in his hometown," wrote the head of the soldier's native Zdolbuniv district in Rivne Oblast, [Vladyslav Sukhliak](#), on Facebook. The exact cause of death was not immediately announced.

A video [posted](#) by the Zdolbuniv city council on June 17 shows Dobrovolskyi being greeted in Zdolbuniv by a crowd chanting the Ukrainian anthem as the soldier is hugging his mother. He was also presented with a korovai, a round bread loaf, as part of the symbolic Ukrainian tradition of welcome with bread and salt.

"Finally, after almost two years, the mother hugged her son," the Zdolbuniv city council commented on the video.

Sukhliak added that Dobrovolskyi was 43 years old at the time of death. "The war with the damned (Russian) occupiers takes lives and health of the defenders," he wrote.

Earlier in June, another Ukrainian soldier returned from Russian captivity had died unexpectedly.

Dmytro Shapovalov, a 32-year-old defender of Ukraine who was exchanged in 2023 after over a year in Russian prisons, had died on June 9, according to the Ukrainian public broadcaster [Suspilne](#).

And Russians don't make a distinction between combatants and civilians. Ukrainian journalist Viktoriia Roshchyna's body was returned to Ukraine with "numerous signs of torture" and some organs missing, including the brain, eyes and larynx.



Pavel Afisov, who was taken prisoner in the first months of the war and released in October, witnessed the patterns of abuse in Russian prisons. SERHII KOROVAYNY FOR WSJ

EXCLUSIVE

‘Be Cruel’: Inside Russia’s Torture System for Ukrainian POWs

In the early weeks of the war, prison authorities told top guards there would be no restrictions against violence

World / Europe

Body of Ukrainian journalist who died in Russian detention returned by Moscow with signs of torture and with missing organs

By Ivana Kottasová, Victoria Butenko and Daria Tarasova-Markina, CNN

3 minute read · Updated 9:35 AM EDT, Wed April 30, 2025



A colleague of Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna holds a photograph of her during an event in honor of her memory in Kyiv, on October 11, 2024. Anatoloo Stepanov/AFP/Getty Images

(CNN) — The body of a young Ukrainian woman who died in Russian captivity after being held incommunicado for months was returned to Ukraine showing signs of torture, Ukrainian prosecutors have said.

Kyiv said the remains of journalist Victoria Roshchyna, who went missing during a reporting trip, were returned as part of a body exchange between Ukraine and Russia in February.

Yuriy Belousov, who heads the war crimes department at the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office, said that forensic examination found "numerous signs of torture and ill-treatment... including abrasions and hemorrhages on various parts of the body, a broken

Castration, gang-rape, forced nudity: How Russia's soldiers terrorise Ukraine with sexual violence

The Kremlin has been accused of terrorising Ukrainians with sexual violence systematically – and known reports are the 'tip of the iceberg'



Harriet Barber
Global Health Reporter

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28 November 2022 9:55am GMT



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Alisa Kovalenko, a Ukrainian film director aged 34, was interrogated, forced to strip naked and bathe in front of a Russian commander in 2014. Credit: Natalie Thomas/Reuters

Since Russia's soldiers first stormed Ukraine, women have been gang-raped, men castrated, children sexually abused, and civilians forced to parade naked in the streets, according to the United Nations.

The Kremlin stands accused of terrorising the Ukrainian population with sexual violence in a systematic and unsparing manner. It is thought that the full-extent of this barbarism will not come to light until years after the war.

The allegations come ahead of a major international conference for preventing sexual violence in conflict, held in London on Monday, during which dozens of survivors from around the world will speak out about their abuse.

Russian troops raped and tortured children in Ukraine, U.N. panel says

The findings by the United Nations experts are the latest allegations of war crimes against Russia since its invasion of Ukraine.



— A Russian soldier patrols in Mariupol, Ukraine, on April 12. Alexander Nemenov / AFP via Getty Images file

The most tragic part of this war is of course the abduction of Ukrainian children, which is also a form of genocide. The kidnapped children are lied about their origins, given new names, indoctrinated into Russian nationalism, beaten and abused.

”Mommy, my cookie hurts, mom, it hurts so much.” Russian soldiers raped little children in occupied Ukrainian settlements. We talked to the psychologist who now works with two such girls, aged 9 and 11

Yevhen Spirin · 20:41, 11 april 2022



Kateryna Bandus / «Бабель»



Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, [183 children have been killed](#) and 342 injured. The Ukrainian Parliament's commissioner for human rights Liudmyla Denisova has revealed the facts of how the occupiers brutally rape children. According to her, an 11-year-old boy was raped in front of his mother in [Bucha town](#) while she was tied to a chair. A 14-year-old girl was raped by five men. Babel editor-in-chief Eugene Spirin spoke with psychologist and psychiatrist Liliya Shakalova, who now works with two raped girls, aged nine and eleven. They were taken out of the settlements near Kyiv, which were occupied by the Russian soldiers. Both girls are now safe, they are with their parents, and are undergoing therapy. We do not name the children and publish just a fragment of this conversation. The content is very graphic, please be aware of this. We encourage you to share this article for the world to know what Ukraine is now going through.

Are you currently working with children who were raped?

— I have two such clients, both are girls. Their parents approached me. Yes, they are children and this is a deep trauma. I've been working with them for a week already.

How old are they?

— One girl is 9, the second is 11 years old. The first one was wounded very, very badly. It has already been stitched up. The second girl is suspected of being pregnant because she already had periods before, but doesn't have any now. Though it may be so because she's too stressed. This girl is now supervised by a gynecologist. This girl was stitched up earlier, while her settlement still was occupied. The locals managed to find a doctor living there.

Reasons Why Russia's Actions in Ukraine Constitute Genocide

- 1. Mass Killing of Civilians**
- 2. Systematic Torture and Rape**
- 3. Forced Deportation of Ukrainian Children**
- 4. Deliberate Targeting of Ukrainian Culture and Identity**
- 5. Destruction of Civilian Infrastructure**
- 6. Explicit Calls for the Eradication of Ukraine**
- 7. Sieges and Starvation Warfare**
- 8. Use of Filtration Camps**
- 9. Ethnic Cleansing in Occupied Territories**
- 10. Violation of the 1948 Genocide Convention**

Russia's actions fit multiple criteria of genocide as defined by international law, including:

Killing members of a national group

Causing serious bodily or mental harm

Inflicting conditions to destroy the group

Forcibly transferring children to another group

These actions are widely recognized as genocidal by legal experts, scholars, and international institutions, with growing calls for Russia's leadership to face tribunals for war crimes and genocide.

Definition

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Article II

*In the present Convention, genocide means **any** of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:*

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.



Денис Казанский

@den_kazansky



В России педофил изнасиловал четырех девочек, вывезенных из Украины.

Инцидент произошел в Анапе, в детском лагере под названием "Счастливое детство"

Translated from Russian by Google

In Russia, a pedophile raped four girls taken from Ukraine.

The incident took place in Anapa, in a children's camp called "Happy Childhood"

Was this translation accurate? Give us feedback so we can improve:

LENTA.RU



Игры

Педофил надругался над школьницами в детском лагере Анапы

Педофил надругался над девочками в детском лагере «Счастливое детство» в Анапе

В Анапе задержали 49-летнего педофила, надругавшегося над школьницами в детском лагере «Счастливое детство» в Анапе. Об этом во вторник, 1 августа, сообщает [Telegram](#)-канал Shot.

По данным издания, он совершил действия сексуального характера в отношении детей в комнате отдыха. От его действий пострадали четыре девочки из ДНР и одна из Московской области. Возраст потерпевших от 10 до 12 лет. Задержанный на допросе у следователей. Возбуждены уголовные дела по статьям «Развратные действия» и «насильственные действия сексуального характера в отношении несовершеннолетних».



Фото: Wanida Tubtawee / Shutterstock / Fotodom

Despite the International Criminal Court arrest warrant for Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova and despite Zelenskyy's insistence in negotiations, Russia has refused to return the abducted kids back to Ukraine. You can check our video on the topic below:



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/C8BSPZn5RJs>

For the Russians on the frontlines, this is just normal behavior, part of the war machine. And Putin and his siloviki friends in the Kremlin know that there will be no consequences as long as they remain in power. The international law system is weak and rarely enforced.

21/24



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Trying individuals for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity,
and aggression

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Press Release: 17 March 2023 | Українська моваРусский

Situation in Ukraine: ICC judges issue arrest warrants against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova



Today, 17 March 2023, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "the Court") issued warrants of arrest for two individuals in the context of the situation in Ukraine: Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Ms Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova.

Why Mongolia Won't Arrest Vladimir Putin

Mongolia will be the first ICC member-state to host the Russian leader since the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

By [Telmen Altanshagai](#)
August 31, 2024



Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa (left) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, July 3, 2024.

Credit: [Office of the President of Mongolia](#)

On September 3, Mongolia is set to test Thucydides' [famous observation](#) that the "strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must." According to the [Kremlin](#), Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to visit Mongolia to honor the 85th anniversary of the Mongolia-Russia joint victory on the Khalkhin Gol River against Imperial Japan in 1939.

The visit is notable because, in March 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an [arrest warrant](#) against Putin following the war in Ukraine, accusing him of the war crimes of unlawful deportation and transportation of children in the occupied territory of Ukraine. Putin is the first head of a permanent member state in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to get an arrest warrant from the ICC.

Mongolia, as a member of the ICC and a [signatory](#) of the Rome Statute, is supposed to honor ICC's arrest warrants. But it is unlikely that Putin will get arrested in Mongolian territory, as Mongolia continues to depend heavily on Russian energy.

The war helps Putin's domestic popularity and helps him control the Russian population. Another reason why ending the war could be dangerous for him is the sheer number of dangerous convicts and war criminals now paid good wages: if the war ends, they come back to Russia.

Putin can no longer end the war against Ukraine, even if he wanted to – Foreign Policy

Kyiv • UNN • April 4 2025, 05:06 AM • 128713 views

A ceasefire is dangerous for Putin. The war has become the basis of the Russian economy and society, and the onset of peace could cause the collapse of the entire system.



Russian dictator Vladimir Putin cannot afford to end the war he started against Ukraine. This was written in his article for Foreign Policy by Jan Garner, Associate Professor at the Center for Totalitarian Studies of the Pilecki Institute, reports UNN.

Vladimir Putin's approval rating

Data from independent pollster the Levada Center shows the proportion of Russians who say they approve of President Vladimir Putin's actions



Source: Levada Center • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

[NEWS FEED](#), [RUSSIA](#), [WAR](#), [PRISONERS](#), [UKRAINE](#), [RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES](#)

Russia has recruited up to 180,000 convicts for war against Ukraine, Foreign Intelligence Service says

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by Kateryna Denisova • January 3, 2025 9:57 AM • 2 min read



Illustrative image: Russian POWs are seen living in a prisoner of war detention camp lining up for a meal in the cafeteria in Lviv Oblast, Ukraine, on Aug. 3, 2023. (Paula Bronstein/Getty Images)

They can then commit more crimes or even get involved in organized crime, a system so strong in Russia that it could eventually threaten Putin's rule. For the Kremlin, the only way forward is to continue the war in Ukraine, and perhaps expand it to the Baltic countries.



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The Violent Homecoming of Russian Convicts Freed to Fight in Ukraine

Wave of new, brutal crimes comes as former prisoners finish military contracts and go home; 'thousands of criminals are walking our streets'

A photo released by Russia's Investigative Committee showing one of the houses in Derevyannoye that Igor Sofonov and his alleged accomplice are accused of having burned down following the murder of six residents in the village on August 1. RUSSIAN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE/TASS/ZUMA PRESS

By [Matthew Luxmoore](#) [Follow](#)

Dec. 5, 2023 12:01 am ET

Russia may attack Nato in next four years, German defence chief warns


1 June 2025

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Frank Gardner
Security Correspondent

Tessa Wong
Asia Digital Reporter

Reporting from  Shangri-la Dialogue, Singapore

Reporting from  Shangri-la Dialogue, Singapore



Russia posing "very serious threat" to West, says German defence chief

For Ukrainians, this nightmare will only end when Ukraine is fully liberated.

Until then, even with ceasefires or "peace", Ukrainians in the temporarily occupied territories are at high risk of being sent to filtration camps and facing torture, sexual abuse and even death.

24/24

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE IN UKRAINE >

Russia plans to build 25 prisons and three forced labor camps in occupied areas of Ukraine

The Russian prime minister has ordered the construction of a large network of prisons to control the population in the illegally annexed territories



Inside a building that Russia used as a prison in Kherson province, on September 19, 2022.
ANADOLU AGENCY (GETTY)



JAVIER G. CUESTA

Moscow - JAN 27, 2023 - 10:58 CET



The Kremlin is aiming to deepen its control of [Russian-occupied zones in Ukraine](#) by building a large prison network. The Russian government is planning to build 25 prisons and three forced labor camps in the [four territories it illegally annexed last year](#): Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk and Luhansk. The main goal of the plan is to control the population in these areas. To achieve this objective, Moscow has also officially created a new department of the federal security service (FSB) in the eastern region of Donetsk.

14/12/2022

Torture of children

Children's torture chamber found in Kherson after de-occupation



One of the torture chambers in the Kherson region. Photo: Press service of the Security Service of Ukraine

After the city and part of the Kherson region were liberated from the Russian occupation, 10 torture chambers were discovered there. One of them had a room, that was used for detaining and torturing children, Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, reported.

"According to the testimony of the people who were held there, Ukrainian children were in this room. The occupiers themselves called it a "children's cell," said Lubinets.

The children were given little water and almost no food. Dmytro Lubinets also reported that they were subjected to psychological abuse. For instance, children were told that parents had abandoned them.

According to Lubinets, a 14-year-old boy was held captive and tortured there for taking photos of destroyed Russian military equipment.

"We recorded the torture of children for the first time. I thought that the bottom could not be broken after Bucha, Irpin," said the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. "No. We really reached the bottom in Kherson."

'The Russians said beatings were my re-education'

16 June 2022

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Hugo Bachega
BBC News, Zaporizhzhia



Like many Ukrainians trying to leave Russian-occupied areas, Andriy was forced to go through a process called filtration

Ukrainians who want to leave cities under Russian occupation cannot do so without undergoing a terrifying process known as filtration. Phones are searched, social media accounts scoured. Anything deemed incriminating can lead to beatings, civilians say, and many are forcefully sent to Russia.

Russia is systematically torturing Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians held in Russian detention. The Ukrainian Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) published a report on April 29 detailing how Russia has used Soviet-era torture practices, including beatings, humiliation, electric shocks, and dog attacks, against Ukrainian POWs and civilian prisoners.[9] MIHR based the report on the testimonies of 138 freed Ukrainian POWs who the Russians detained in 2022-2025. The report notably coheres with a UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (UN OHCHR) assessment from October 2024 that assessed that Russian authorities have subjected Ukrainian POWs to torture, ill-treatment, and inhumane conditions “in a widespread and systematic manner.”[10] The UN OHCHR report also noted that it is highly likely that the Russian military command is aware of the treatment of Ukrainian POWs and that Russian state entities may be coordinating the use of torture. UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Volker Türk noted that there is significant coordination on the poor treatment of the POWs and prisoners among various Russian entities, specifically the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN).[11] Russia’s abuse of Ukrainians in detention is notably not exclusive to POWs. The Ukrainian Ombudsman’s Office confirmed on April 28 that Russia is illegally detaining almost 16,000 civilians in occupied territories and at least 1,800 civilians in Russia, and it is likely that Russian agents are torturing many of these detainees.[12] Russia recently returned the body of Ukrainian journalist Viktoriya Roshchyna, whom Russia detained while she was investigating Russian detention centers in occupied Ukraine, with “extensive damage to the coronary arteries” and missing organs, a sign that Russian authorities were trying to obfuscate evidence of torture.[13]

The 2nd edition of “Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



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#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

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