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More Than 650 Released in Ukraine Prisoner Exchange

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More than 650 people have been released in the biggest prisoner exchange to date in the
Ukrainian conflict, separatist authorities have announced.

Ukrainian officials
signed the deal with the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and
Luhansk on Thursday, the Lenta news site reported.

Ukraine released 47 prisoners, while the two
breakaway
republics released a total of 618
people, said
Olga Kobtseva, spokesperson for Luhansk Contact Group for Humanitarian
Affairs in Minsk, Belarus.

The two sides have made 15 prisoner exchanges since February 2015, releasing 328 detainees in total, Kobtseva
said.

The Ukrainain conflict has been ongoing since February 2014, killing an estimated 9,000 people.

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