

# 350 Russian Children in Middle East Conflict Zones, Says Russian Official

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There are around 350 Russian children in conflict zones in the Middle East including Syria, Russia's children's rights ombudswoman Anna Kuznetsova was [cited](#) as saying on Tuesday by the Interfax news agency.

Most of the children are from Russia's North Caucasus regions of Chechnya and Dagestan, Kuznetsova said.

"Dagestan accounts for more than 200 [children], according to [government] figures," she was cited as saying.

"The unofficial figure [of children illegally taken out of Russia] is much higher."

Many of the children were taken to Syria, Interfax reported, citing Kuznetsova's press service.

The statement comes after RT [reported](#) earlier this month that at least 48 Russian children

were marooned in Mosul, Iraq, after their parents had been killed fighting for Islamic State.\*

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov later said there were more than 300 orphans from Russia and former Soviet Union countries in conflict zones in the Middle East.

\*Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia

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