

# Russia Repatriates Islamic State-Linked Children From Syria

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More than 70 children will be brought back from Syria's Roj and al-Hol camps in the near future, Russia's top children's rights official said. **Screenshot TVC / tvc.ru**

Russia has returned 26 children of Islamic State fighters from Syria, the state-run TASS news agency [reported](#) Friday.

Russia has worked to bring back women and children linked to Russians who fought for the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq under a program led by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. Russian President Vladimir Putin has backed what he [called](#) a “noble” repatriation effort.

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“Today’s 26 repatriated children come from Astrakhan, Dagestan, the republic of Chechnya, Orenburg and Sverdlovsk region,” Anna Kuznetsova, Russia’s top children’s rights official, told TASS.

Their ages ranged from 2 to 17 years old, Kuznetsova said, with most of the children between 6 and 8 years old.

Nine other children remained in Russia's Khmeimim airfield in northwestern Syria awaiting completion of paperwork before boarding the next flight, TASS cited Kuznetsova as saying.

Agence France-Presse [reported](#) that Syria's Kurds had handed over 35 Islamic State-linked Russian orphans between 4 and 16 years old Thursday.

More than 70 children will be brought back from Syria's Roj and al-Hol camps in the near future, Kuznetsova was cited as saying.

The children's relations to Russian nationals is being confirmed through [DNA tests](#).

Relatives have identified at least 1,779 Russian women and children in Syria and Iraq who want to return from former Islamic State territory, Chechen human rights activists said last year.

*Islamic State is a terrorist group banned in Russia.*

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