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Russia Will Not Give Out Passports to Mobilized People – Government

By AFP

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Temporary mobilization point at VDNKh in Moscow. **Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency**

Moscow will not give out passports to Russians mobilized by the army, a government information portal said Wednesday, as fears of travel restrictions rise and tens of thousands flee the country.

"If a citizen is summoned for army service or received a summons (for mobilization), he will be refused a passport," the government website said.

It added that those who are not issued a passport will be notified how long the hold will be in place.

Since President Vladimir Putin announced a mobilization to prop up the Russian army in Ukraine, tens of thousands have crossed into neighboring countries to evade the draft.

Many have feared that men of military age would be barred from leaving the country, with

reports that some have already been turned away.

Only a minority of Russians hold a passport that allows them to leave the country.

Russia also has a system of "internal passports" — a document used as a form of ID and accepted in some of Russia's ex-Soviet neighbors.

The portal did not mention restrictions on the handout of those documents.

Russians can travel to Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — where many have fled to since Putin announced mobilization — on internal passports.

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