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Russian Army Releases 45 Indians Recruited for Ukraine War

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Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Moscow in July. **kremlin.ru**

Russia's military has discharged 45 Indian nationals who were misled into fighting in the war against Ukraine, India's Foreign Ministry said Thursday, saying that efforts were underway to release 50 more Indian soldiers.

The Indian nationals were able to return home after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised their plight with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow in July, according to media reports. At least four Indians have been killed in Russia's war against Ukraine.

India's domestic crime investigation agency says around 100 Indian nationals fell victim to human traffickers who lured people to Russia with job offers or admission to "dubious private universities."

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In May, Indian authorities arrested four people implicated in the trafficking network. Those arrests came after investigators carried out raids across 13 locations in India and detained several people for questioning.

That same month, similar arrests took place in Sri Lanka, where the defense ministry reported that at least 16 of its citizens had been killed while fighting in Ukraine. Authorities there said those who had joined the Russian military were duped with promises of high salaries and falsely told they would be given non-combat roles.

There was no immediate comment from the Russian authorities about the reported release of Indian nationals serving in the military.

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