

Ukraine Sees Surge in Inquiries From Russian Families on Missing Soldiers

By <u>AFP</u>

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Russian prisoners of war in Ukraine. @hochunaiti_com

Ukraine received a surge in queries last month from Russian families seeking information on missing relatives serving in Moscow's army, Kyiv said on Tuesday.

Ukraine last year established a hotline for Russians to learn details of missing relatives and friends as part of efforts to streamline prison exchanges.

The hotline called "I Want to Find" is run by the Coordination Center for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which said it had received 8,548 requests last month.

"This number of applications per month is a record," it said on Telegram, adding that the figure was 22% more than in December.

The center said that since the project launched in January 2024 it had received more than

60,000 requests for details of missing Russian troops.

It claimed the real number of missing Russian personnel was likely two or three times higher "as not all relatives have yet applied to the Ukrainian project."

Of the inquiries it received since launching last year, 1,790 Russian soldiers were found to be in Ukrainian captivity, out of which 408 have been exchanged, the statement said.

The overall number of Russian prisoners of war in Ukraine is higher, it said.

The coordination center said the increase in queries from Russia "indicates the enemy's huge losses in Ukraine".

The exchange of prisoners of war and the remains of dead troops remains one of the few areas of cooperation between Kyiv and Moscow after nearly three years of costly fighting.

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