

# Ukraine Says Russia Returned Nearly 1K Bodies of Fallen Soldiers

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Russia returned the bodies of 909 Ukrainian soldiers killed in combat, Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War [said](#) Friday.

The fallen soldiers were said to have died on the front lines in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Sumy regions. Some of the bodies had reportedly been held in Russian morgues, the headquarters said.

It marks the ninth return of 500 or more bodies since October and came as Russian and Ukrainian officials met in Istanbul for their first direct talks since early 2022.

As of Friday afternoon, Russian officials had not commented on whether the remains of Russian soldiers had also been returned. Moscow received 41 bodies of Russian troops in a similar exchange last month.

Kyiv and Moscow have exchanged bodies and prisoners of war since the early months of

Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky estimates that up to 100,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed in the war. Russia has not updated its official military death toll since the fall of 2022.

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/05/16/ukraine-says-russia-returned-nearly-1k-bodies-of-fallen-soldiers-a89105>