

Ukraine Says Russia Returned 1,000 Bodies

By [AFP](#)

October 23, 2025



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Russia on Thursday returned 1,000 bodies to Ukraine, which Moscow said were the remains of Kyiv's soldiers killed in battle, a Ukrainian government agency said.

The exchange of prisoners of war and killed soldiers is one of the few remaining areas of cooperation between Kyiv and Moscow, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"Repatriation measures took place today," Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War announced on social media.

"One thousand bodies, which according to the Russian side belong to Ukrainian servicemen, were returned to Ukraine," the agency added.

Ukraine has said that Moscow handed over to Kyiv the bodies of killed Russian soldiers during previous repatriations.

Kyiv also announced in September, August and July that it had received the remains of 1,000 killed soldiers from Russia, illustrating the intensity of fighting across the sprawling front line.

The Coordination Headquarters said law enforcement would soon begin the process of identifying the repatriated remains and thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross for its role in the repatriation.

Tens of thousands of soldiers have been killed on both sides since Russia invaded, though neither side regularly publishes data on their own casualties.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in February this year told U.S. media that Ukraine has lost more than 46,000 soldiers and that tens of thousands were considered missing in action.

The BBC and independent outlet Mediazona say they have documented more than 135,000 Russian soldiers killed in the 3.5-year war using open-source data, with the actual number likely higher.

Original url:

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