

Ukraine Returns 10 Missing Soldiers in 'Special' Exchange With Russia

August 24, 2026



Ukrainian servicemen following their release from Russian captivity on Aug. 24, 2026.
[@V_Zelenskiy_official](#)

Ukraine has returned 10 of its servicemen from Russian captivity as part of a “special stage” of ongoing prisoner exchanges with Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [said](#) Monday.

Two of the soldiers had been previously classified as missing in action since 2024 and eight since 2025, Ukraine’s Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War [said](#).

The group included soldiers and sailors from the Ukrainian armed forces and national guard who had been fighting in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk region.

“Today, as part of a special stage of the exchange, we are bringing back 10 of our warriors — through Belarus,” Zelensky wrote on X. “It’s very important that we managed to bring them back.”

It was not immediately clear why Zelensky designated the swap on Monday as “special.”

Related article: [Putin Wants to Draft 300K New Troops, Zelensky Says](#)

The latest release of prisoners came less than a week after Russia and Ukraine each [exchanged](#) 103 servicemen following mediation from the United Arab Emirates.

At the time, Ukraine’s military intelligence chief Oleh Ivashchenko said that another exchange was expected before the end of the month.

Both Russia and Ukraine have released hundreds of prisoners of war since the start of the year through mediation from the United States and the UAE.

Repatriations of fallen soldiers and prisoner-of-war exchanges remain among the few channels of direct communication between Moscow and Kyiv since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/08/24/ukraine-returns-10-missing-soldiers-in-special-exchange-with-russia-a93567>