

Russia and Ukraine Exchange 540 POWs

October 23, 2026



Russian human rights commissioner Yana Lantratova greets a woman who was part of a family reunification initiative with Ukraine. [@lantratovaDOBRO / Telegram](#)

Russia and Ukraine exchanged 270 prisoners of war each in the second consecutive repatriation effort in as many days, the Russian Defense Ministry [said](#) Friday.

“On Oct. 23, 270 Russian servicemen were returned from territory controlled by the Kyiv regime,” the military said. “In exchange, 270 POWs of the Ukrainian armed forces were handed over.”

The swap took place at the Novaya Guta border crossing in Belarus, [according](#) to Belarusian state media.

While in Belarus, the Russian soldiers are being provided with mental health and medical support, after which they will return to Russia for further treatment. Russian human rights commissioner Yana Lantratova is accompanying them, the Defense Ministry said.

On her Telegram channel, Lantratova [said](#) that 12 families were also reunited across the border, with seven civilians returning to Russia and seven others departing for Ukraine. She

did not mention the POW exchange.

Lantratova said the family reunification was a joint effort with her Ukrainian colleague Dmytro Lubinets. She also thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross for helping mediate the initiative.

Friday's exchange comes a day after Russia and Ukraine [repatriated](#) the remains of 277 fallen soldiers at the same Belarusian border crossing.

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