

AGAINST CAPITALIST WARS – AGAINST CAPITALIST PEACE
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DESERTERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of Lotta, a newsletter featuring articles against capitalist wars and capitalist peace. War is becoming a reality in more and more parts of the world. It is also clear that peace under capitalism is only a preparation for the next round of wars. The motto of our magazine is therefore not an empty phrase. The working class around the world faces enormous destructive forces and the threat that wars will escalate into a global nuclear conflict with fatal consequences for all of humanity. Transforming capitalist wars and peace into social revolution is the only option we see as a realistic solution. In this issue, we will focus primarily—but not exclusively—on the war between Russia and Ukraine/NATO/EU. Next time, we will turn our attention to other wars. In any case, our perspective will always be based on class struggle, anti-militarist initiative, and revolutionary defeatism. This is not an expression of dogmatism. It is the result of accumulated experience gained by previous generations in the struggle against the world of capital and the wars it breeds.

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FUNDRAISING FOR DESERTERS AND WAR REFUGEES

The war massacre in Ukraine continues, affecting populations on both sides of the war line. While Putin's army bombs Ukrainian cities, the Ukrainian government has turned them into prisons for a significant portion of the local population. People are being murdered, imprisoned, raped and murdered as a result of the actions of the rulers in the Kremlin and Kiev. Let's not look away. Let's support those who are affected.

War and nationalist propaganda are deceiving and manipulating us, while at the same time obscuring important facts. Among other things, for example, the fact that the State borders in Ukraine are closed to men of conscription age. They are guarded by the army, which sends men to prison, shoots them and drowns them in the river when they try to cross the border to safe place. Army gunmen also chase men in the streets to drag them to the front and use them as "cannon fodder". Yes, this is the same Ukrainian army that is praised by many as if it was a noble form of liberation institution. If we look to Russia, we can see a similarly disturbing reality. For the slightest protest against the war, people end up in prison; forced mobilization has obliged many proletarians to flee or go into hiding. Deserters, saboteurs and conscientious objectors are massacred, judged and imprisoned in Russia, as well as in the Ukraine.

We do not care how the bourgeoisie justifies this aggression against the working class in Russia and Ukraine. It is necessary not only to condemn and criticize it, but also to give practical support to those who are concerned, i.e. deserters, rebels, saboteurs, refugees, those who avoid forced conscription to the front and many others. It is necessary to stand consistently against Putin's aggressors, as well as against aggressors acting at the instigation of the Ukrainian Government.

What can we do, we who currently live outside the war zone? At the very least, we can share resources with those who desperately need them. The **Anti-Militarist Initiative (AMI)** is therefore launching a public fundraising campaign starting the 1 February 2025. The money raised will support proletarians from Russia and Ukraine who are trying to avoid mobilization, who have deserted, who face repression or are trying to save their lives by fleeing a war zone.

How to Support the Fundraising?

1) You can deposit money into the account.

Payment details:

IBAN: CZ1955000000001024164477

Account holder: Historický spolek

Záduha, z.s.

Bank: Raiffeisenbank

bank code: 5500

Swift code: RZBCCZPP

2) It is also possible to arrange to hand over the money in person in cash.

3) Fundraising gigs, solidarity parties and dinners, etc. are welcome.

4) Sharing information about the fundraiser is an important part of the fundraiser. It can be translated into different languages, and sharing a flyer or poster, publishing the appeal on websites, social networks, magazines etc. is also welcome.

5) We plan to successively publish statements from collectives and individuals who have supported the fundraising. They will explain their motivations and reflections on anti-war resistance. Write your own contribution.

source:

<https://antimilitarismus.noblogs.org/post/2025/02/07/fundraising-for-deserters-and-war-refugees/>



THE SPECTER OF MILITARISM IS HAUNTING EUROPE

We are publishing an article by friends active in Hungarian cities who, among other things, have decided to actively support a fundraising for deserters and war refugees. In this text, they describe disturbing militaristic tendencies in the local context, but at the same time place them in an internationalist framework.

A spectre is haunting Europe – the spectre of militarism. All the powers of modern Europe have entered into a holy alliance under the spell of this spectre: the NATO and the EU, Putin and Orbán, Brusselian bureaucrats and the German Rheinmetall.

Where is the government that does not support increasing military spending on what it calls defence? Where is the opposition that does not stand with the advocates of militarism, whether they call themselves right-wing or liberal?

Two things result from this fact:

Militarism is already acknowledged by all European powers to be itself a threat. It is high time that anti-militarists took a firm stand and said no to the ideology and machinery of militarism, to pull the veil down on the militarist ambitions of governments, international organisations and military complexes, and to confront the madness of war and armament with social revolution and revolutionary defeatism.

In recent years, our world has once again been overshadowed by the shadow of war. To mention just two current and well-known examples:

In the war in Ukraine, since February 2022, the number of casualties on both sides is estimated at hundreds of thousands, and the number of wounded could reach one million. The number of refugees displaced from Ukraine is around 7 million.

Meanwhile, the war and genocide in Gaza has killed more than 50,000 people, 80% of them civilians and a third of them children, until the beginning of April. The murder of journalists and humanitarian personnel by Israeli forces is now on an unprecedented scale.

These armed conflicts have given a huge boost to military research and development, military-industrial production and the testing of newly invented technologies in the field. Drones and

robots, chemical weapons and the nightmare of nuclear war are looming on the fronts.

Moreover, there is no clear sign that any of these conflicts will end within a short time.

The multiple effects of these – even though Hungary is not at war with anyone – are increasingly being felt by us: rising defence spending and demagogic propaganda on the one hand, rising inflation and deficits on the other. The Hungarian government welcomes with open arms and embraces war aggressors such as Putin and Netanyahu, a war criminal convicted by the International Criminal Court, while it preaches endlessly about peace and patriotism, organises “peace marches” and launches overpriced “national consultations”. Orbán’s crocodile tears are shed in a blood sea for which his own main allies are the main responsables.

But it would be a mistake to think that all that is happening in our country today is merely the result of these war conflicts, that Hungary is forced to do what it does only by external circumstances. In fact, the process of militarisation had already begun earlier, although the recent events have provided the government with sufficient reason and pretext to continue maintaining the rule by decree and further fatten the machinery of militarism.

Over the past 10 years, defence spending by NATO member states has more than six-fold, reaching a record level. During this period, Hungary has achieved the second most dynamic growth among EU Member States, increasing its defence spending as a share of GDP from 0.6% in 2014 to above the 2% NATO demand by 2023. Since then, Hungary has consistently exceeded the mandatory quota, while a quarter of NATO member states spend less than this. Just to give you an idea of what our taxes, among others, are being spent on: under the adopted budget, the Ministry of

Defence will receive more than 4,8 billion euros from the state coffers this year.

But for the war hyenas, nothing is enough: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has said that all member states should increase their contribution to defence spending as a share of GDP to over 3%, and Trump has even talked about 5% as a goal to be achieved... What this means for us, we all know: cuts in public social spending, tax raises, an increase in the national debt. All this at a time when we are witnessing an unprecedented rise in the cost of living!

And what exactly is all that money for? Already immediately after Fidesz came to power in 2010, more military weapons were ordered than in the entire decade before. Then, in 2017, a ten-year comprehensive military development programme was announced, which resulted in the state going into turbo mode from 2018, purchasing or ordering a wide range of fire-arms, air and ground military vehicles. In 2020 alone, surpassing all previous records, more than 400 foreign military orders were placed, mostly for German Lynx infantry fighting vehicles and US medium-range missiles for Gripen.

In addition to foreign purchases, there is also a boom in domestic military investment, partly by Hungarian companies and partly by Europe’s largest arms manufacturer, Rheinmetall, which has been and is still being implemented in at least all three counties of the country: Zalaegerszeg, Kiskunfélegyháza, Gyula, Kaposvár, Várpalota, Nyírtelek, etc.

The Minister of Defence also identified the reinforcement of the NATO headquarters in Székesfehérvár as a priority, and NATO troop movements and training exercises are ongoing at the country’s bases.

The size of the army, which was around 30,000 in the 2010s, has been significantly increased in

the new decade, and the recruitment campaign and promotion of the military has been going on at full speed: through internet advertisements and posters in public squares, parades at various ceremonies and open days, or on college and university campuses. Candidates are promised good pay, benefits and discounts, presenting soldiering and warfare as a cool and manly activity, full of fun and laughter, and of course, only for the good of the country and the nation. How false this is illustrated by the accident in March, when both hands were blown off a government official who, under pressure from above, was forced to take part in a live hand grenade throwing exercise with many of her colleagues.

And if all this were not enough, militarism is increasingly infiltrating the education system. The introduction of five hours of physical education a week was once seen by many as a bad omen. Since then, there has been a basic knowledge subject on national defence, which can be taken at graduation level. It was not long ago that soldiers over 55 were allowed to be retrained as school teachers, exacerbating the crisis in public education and reinforcing the militaristic spirit in the schools. And to complete the militarist brainwashing, children are being sent to military defence camps, which, thanks to massive state subsidies, are currently one of the cheapest forms of camping in the country.

Meanwhile, the militarisation of political communication is going on unmasked: just look at Orbán's rhetoric, which is soiled by a plethora of warlike expressions. The war-mongering creates an atmosphere of general fear, which has already played a role in their previous electoral victories, and is also an effective weapon to smear and destroy their political opponents. Because if the government is anti-

war, those who criticise its policies can only be pro-war.

In addition to its immediate benefits, such word magic also serves long-term strategic purposes: it imperceptibly accustoms society to war, normalising the culture of war and creating an Orwellian newspeak where the formula of 'war is peace' becomes increasingly commonplace and accepted.

Enough of the hypocritical charade and intrigue of the supporters of militarism!

Enough of militarist propaganda, the militarisation of public discourse and education!

Enough of increased military spending, new military industrial investments and arms purchases!

And finally, enough of false dilemmas: Russia or NATO, Putin or Zelensky... We must recognise that our enemies are not on the other side of the front lines created by the elites. On the contrary! It is precisely these economic, political and military elites who are the real enemy for us: military alliances and warring governments, arms manufacturers and military contractors, ministers of defence and their generals – the fomenters of militarism, the real horsemen of the apocalypse. To live in peace and real security, we must get rid of them!

In short, the anti-militarists everywhere support every revolutionary movements against the existing social and political order of things. We also support conscientious objectors and deserters who leave the front, workers and students who protest and strike against the war, saboteurs of military operations and military-industrial production, journalists and hackers who expose or leak war crimes and other abominations.

*Some anarchist from Hungary (May 2025)*

DESERTERS

OF ALL

COUNTRIES,

UNITE!

We are publishing a statement by militants in Athens who have supported fundraising for deserters and war refugees. In this text you can read about their motivations for supporting desertion.

When the leaders speak of peace
The common folk knows
That war is coming.
When the leaders curse war
The mobilization order
is already written out.

Those at the top say: peace and war
Are of different substance.
But their peace and their war
Are like wind and storm.

War grows from their peace
Like son from his mother
He bears her frightful features.
Their war kills
Whatever their peace
Has left over.

On the wall was chalked:
They want war
The man who wrote it
Has already fallen.

Those at the top say:
This way to glory.
Those down below say:
This way to the grave.

*- From A German War Primer
Bertolt Brecht*

For the last years, war and the danger of its generalization has been constantly around. We are painfully aware of it from the cuts in our wages, be they the result, of the rise of the prices of energy and imported goods or the increase in war budgets.

Especially these days, the war-mongering in Europe has reached a fever pitch. The frenetic rearmament of Europe (see ReArm Europe) will aggravate the present situation of the working class in all European countries, but for coun-

tries like Greece the consequences will be tragic. The already tottering welfare state will disappear, leaving the proletariat with incalculable losses. The 28 billion euros that the Greek state is planning to pay over the next 12 years to the Israeli war industrial complex to purchase weapons systems will bring new austerity cuts, adding to the losses of the last 15 years.

The armaments gurus tell us that there is no way to defend the continent without cuts in social spending. Having dealt a series of blows to the post-war welfare state, capital and its state have decided that it is time to abolish it, at the same time as the bourgeoisie is reaping record profits from a defence industry working at full capacity.

As the leftist political spheres are dominated by anti-imperialist rhetoric that supports one state as the “good” one against the “bad” one, we view wars as primarily the exporting of class contradictions within each nation to the sphere of national warfare, with the ultimate goal of forging national unity.

For us, the world is divided into classes, not into races or camps: we refuse to demonise peoples and countries and pledge no allegiance to nationalism of any kind. We have been taught that the interests of the class of the multinational proletariat cannot be lined up behind the bourgeoisie classes of one or another state or country, no matter how much nationalist anti-imperialist jugglery divides them into “im-



mediate" and "long-term" and promotes orderly alliances on the basis of a supposedly linear course, starting with "national liberation" and "national integration" and leading... later to the "hegemony" of the class within the independent nation-state. Historically, the nation-state formations that emerged after the "victory" of the national liberation and anti-colonial struggles were the new prisons of the nationalized proletariat.

People should be united on the basis of their social condition, not their identity. This old world needs to disappear, and there cannot be any possibility whatsoever for us to retain these deadly junk of nations, nationalities, races and religions. We have to break up the framework of the nation-state, with its minorities and majorities, and replace it everywhere with communes and councils.

But until that moment comes, we stand with all those who do not take up arms and refuse to become food for the cannons of the bourgeoisie and to murder their class brothers and sisters.

Fully aware that the reasons for the act of desertion can be many and contradictory, we stand with the thousands of Ukrainians who are crossing the border to avoid conscription, with the Russians who are hiding from the draft, with the Palestinians who, in the face of the endless destruction unleashed on them by the Israeli state, have found the courage to demonstrate against Hamas and demand an end to the war. We stand with all those of the Israeli proletariat who are protesting and demanding an end to the collective punishment and weaponization of the starvation of the Palestinian proletariat. We stand with those of the Israeli working class who demand an end to the relentless assault on Gaza, an end to apartheid, an end to the occupation.

WE SUPPORT DESERTERS because

- Action of desertion has a significant impact on sabotaging the war machine of the capitalist state, which in turn affects its capacity to conduct military operations.
- Despite the state propaganda, leaving the battlefield and refusing to participate in massacring the working class is a courageous act. The consequences of such a choice are devastating, as those who leave their posts are subjected to persecution, social stigmatization, imprisonment and in some cases execution. Stopping war, however, is only possible if these practices are implemented on a mass scale within a broader process of class conflict. Sadly, even within the anti-capitalist milieu, there are many individuals and groups who try to portray desertion as either a futile or absurd act, or who often argue that participation in the war is a prerequisite for "liberation" from the occupying power.
- It is crucial to establish networks on an international scale to provide material assistance to deserters. The issue is to ensure the conditions that would guarantee their safety in the act of desertion. In fact, one of the key issues at stake in class struggles within countries at war is the demand for the opening of borders, including for deserters. It is also necessary to provide information on safe methods of escape and communication with the proletarians of other countries which are not at war and to which deserters could take refuge.
- We don't want to die to save a nation. We stand for mass desertions and fraternisation of all sides at the front, while, back home, engaging in autonomous

proletarian struggle, sabotage and strikes in the factories of armaments, railway stations and ports!

**We support in every way the deserters
from all fronts!**

The proletariat has no country!

Down with the armies, down with the war!

**No to the deployment of European
or any troops at all in Ukraine!**

**# *Some Internationalist Communists
from Athens 27.3. 2025***

source:

<https://antimilitarismus.noblogs.org/post/2025/04/15/deserters-of-all-nationalities-unite/>

**SUPPORT
FOR
DESERTERS
CREATES
A RUPTURE
IN THE WAR
CONSTRUCTION**

In the past, I have decided to sell off a collection of LP/ EP and also raise money for war refugees during the free distribution of my publication "Tato kniha není (z)boží". So far I have raised 7 467 Kč (=298 Euros) in this way. I will put all this money into the fundraising for deserters and war refugees. The following is my brief explanation of why I am doing this.

The Russian army deserters prove that not everyone who finds himself on the Russian front is a devoted supporter of Putin and Russian imperialism. Similarly, the deserters from the Ukrainian army remind us that it is not in the interests of the working class to kill and be killed defending the regime in Ukraine and its imperialist friends in the West. Desertion or draft evasion can be a conscious act of political resistance or also just an instinctive instinct for self-preservation. But in any case, it is always a widening crack in the contours of the war machine. That's why I decided to support these people. Because we will not stop the war by choosing the less brutal state within it and sending its weapons and people to the meat grinder. We stop the war by undermining the ability of all the states involved and their armies to continue the war. And desertion or avoidance of mobilization in Russia and Ukraine is one way that this disruption is concretely manifested. When workers in military uniform desert, it is always an act of class resistance to the war, whether they realise it or not. In the First World War, the wave of desertions played a significant role in transforming inter-imperialist war rivalries into attempts to revolutionarily overcome capitalism. It is an instructive example of how we can stop the war, but also of what mistakes we must avoid in the future.

source: <https://lukasborl.noblogs.org/support-for-deserters-creates-a-rupture-in-the-war-construction/>

INTERVIEW ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DESERTERS FROM THE UKRAINIAN ARMY

Vladyslav fled Ukraine to avoid mobilization and now lives in one of the European countries. We ask him a few questions to clarify the current situation of deserters.



1) You fled Ukraine across the Romanian mountains. You managed to save yourself and your cat. How are you doing now? Are you both okay?

Hello. Overall, much better than in Ukraine. Yes, from time to time I am the target of attacks by Ukrainian security service agents, including provocations and insults for political reasons. However, EU residents treat me very well, and during my entire stay I have not experienced any violations of my rights by EU citizens. In July 2025, my cat Peach went out for a walk and did not return. Only after registering his microchip did the animal shelter contact me and inform me that, according to the person who brought him to the shelter, my cat had been hit by a car. However, the physical injuries found on him may indicate intentional action. I am now gathering evidence about this. But overall, the cat is alive and well, with no lasting effects.



2) Forcibly mobilization into the army is underway in Ukraine. Many men do not want to serve in the army. Many people also want to desert. Do you have any advice for these people?

Yes. Upon arrival at the TCC, refuse to undergo a medical examination to determine your fitness for military service. If the situation is critical, I recommend simulating mental disorders or, if necessary, defecating in your cell. Personally, I always carried a razor blade with me in Ukraine to cut my veins in case I ended up in a training center. These methods are highly effective—training center employees are required to send the person for a psychiatric examination, which increases the chances of escape. I am not encouraging people to self-harm. But there is a way out of a psychiatric hospital, but not out of a grave. Personally, I planned that if I ended up in a training center, I would slit my wrists and smear feces around the training center. Since childhood, I have suffered from two illnesses—obsessive-compulsive disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder—but in Ukraine, these illnesses are not sufficient grounds for exemption from military service. Then army officials wonder why such people shoot army commanders. After all, giving weapons to such people can provoke their use even in the case of a mere insult from the military leadership.

3) How can people in Europe help deserters?

People in the EU are already helping deserters enough. However, in the legal sphere, an EU decision on the inadmissibility of extraditing and deporting deserters would help prevent the torture to which these people are subjected in Ukraine. I agree that criminals who committed crimes before fleeing Ukraine should be pu-

nished. However, the Ukrainian court's judgment can be enforced within the EU. This would be a guarantee against political persecution. Ukraine and Russia adhere to the practices of the KGB in the USSR and use cases from 10 years ago to put pressure on those they do not like. These countries can also fabricate criminal cases to exert pressure to stop actions that are unacceptable to a totalitarian regime. I call on the EU not to recognize the decisions of Russian and Ukrainian courts against men taken during the war. These cases are often politically motivated.

4) Ukraine is discussing a new law that will worsen the situation of deserters who have fled to Europe. What exactly does this law mean?

Yes. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Sviridenko, whose brother fled to London during the war, has submitted a bill to the Ukrainian parliament that would criminalize fleeing Ukraine and not returning to Ukraine within 90 days of the law's adoption. They want to transfer jurisdiction over these criminal cases to the SBU and propose to try them in absentia. In fact, the Ukrainian totalitarian regime plans to equate fleeing Ukraine with treason, participation in organized crime, or crimes against peace and world security. This suggests that the SBU is beginning to transform into the KGB known from the USSR and is being used to put pressure on those who are undesirable to the Ukrainian totalitarian regime. Yesterday, the Verkhovna Rada granted the SBU the right to independently submit draft laws to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which I consider to be a seizure of state power, because according to the Ukrainian constitution, lawmaking is the exclusive prerogative of the Verkhovna Rada. The Ukrainian regime is effectively giving the SBU the ability to submit laws that are beneficial to the regime, which is unacceptable

for an executive body.

In order to prevent the persecution of deserters, I am currently working through legal means to organize resistance against the Ukrainian totalitarian regime.

5) Does this mean that these laws will give the police and courts in the EU the power to prosecute deserters within the EU?

Yes and no. If the bill is passed, the authorities will be able to try deserters in absentia on Ukrainian territory and, on the basis of a Ukrainian court ruling, request that the EU authorities issue an international arrest warrant for deserters with a view to their extradition to Ukraine. Since trials in absentia directly violate the guarantees of a fair trial, specifically Article 6 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, all verdicts in such cases will be guilty. The totalitarian regime aims to bring back as many cannon fodder from the EU as possible and will do absolutely everything to achieve this goal. EU countries can, of course, ignore extradition requests for such crimes because they are political, but my personal opinion is that such requests will be granted by the EU authorities.

6) Could these laws also mean the deportation of deserters back to Ukraine?

Yes. However, this is not deportation, but extradition as criminals under Ukrainian law. These people are not at risk of being sent to the front line because, immediately after being handed over to the Ukrainian authorities, they will be sent to prison to serve their sentences. However, in Ukrainian prisons, they face torture by the authorities and pressure to sign a contract for convicted persons. If they sign such a contract, these people are immediately sent

to fight against the Russian armed forces. Military service that does not involve direct participation in combat operations is not provided for these persons.

7) What other problems will deserters encounter if these laws are enforced in Ukraine?

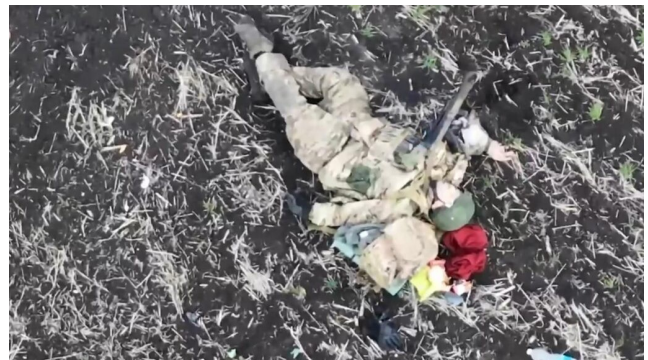
They will have to switch to asylum seeker status. Only this status can influence the Ukrainian authorities' failure to comply with the extradition request. This status can take years to obtain, in some cases even decades. As long as a deserter has asylum seeker status, they have no right to work or leave the country in which they have applied for asylum. Their place of residence is determined by the migration service, and they will receive a minimum financial allowance and limited health insurance that only covers urgent medical cases. Asylum seekers are thus effectively deprived of their fundamental rights, which allow them to move freely within the EU, the right to work, and the right to freely choose their place of residence. The funds paid to asylum seekers are barely enough to cover personal expenses, with the exception of food, hygiene products, and basic necessities.



**FORCIBLY
MOBILISED
AND THEN
KILLED
BY DRONE:
THE MURDEROUS
LOGIC OF WAR
IN PRACTICE**

The mainstream media publishes articles about how terribly the Russian army treats deserters. "Chained to trees, locked in metal tanks, or dragged behind off-road vehicles—this is the reality for Russian soldiers who refused to fight in Ukraine," they note. (1)

As usual, there is not much written about the equally horrific massacres of Ukrainian deserters. One thing is certain, however. The combat capability of both armies is partly based on violent mobilization and torture techniques designed to discourage desertion and force even those who do not want to go to the front to do so. While thousands of soldiers are trying to desert, others are being sent to the front against their will, hoping to live to see another day. That is, unless a "suicide" drone armed with explosives happens to fly into their heads. On the internet, we can see videos of such drones belonging to the Ukrainian army massacring Russian soldiers on motorcycles, in trenches, on roads, in forests, plains, and elsewhere. (2)



In most cases, footage of these events is accompanied by articles that celebrate them and cynically dehumanize the victims. They never ask who these people are or how they ended up in a place where they were mercilessly killed. It is impossible not to notice that even the anti-fascist and "anarchist" movement is organizing collections for drones for the Ukrainian army. And because — like the pro-Western mainstream — this "radical left" environment also presents the war as a defensive action against occupiers, it probably doesn't worry too much about the fact that its drones may well be massacring Russian soldiers who were forced to

the front under threat of punishment. In the logic of a “defensive war,” every Russian soldier on the front line is a Putinist and an occupier. (3) Thousands of deserters and forcibly mobilized soldiers are nothing to the supporters of this logic and can be mercilessly eliminated. (4) But what such an approach has to do with the declared struggle for freedom and justice is something that the proponents of this line will not explain to us. After all, most of them do not have to face fire on either side of the war line. They simply send a financial contribution from time to time from the safe haven of the pampered petty bourgeoisie (or their descendants) and then write an ideological shitstorm full of vague phrases about the struggle for freedom and self-determination of the Ukrainian people.

In contrast, soldiers on both the Ukrainian and Russian fronts are largely proletarians who do not have access to these privileges. Yes, they are proletarians, because the proletariat has not ceased to exist just because some individuals have decided to remove this word from their vocabulary. The truth is that many proletarians are on the front lines involuntarily and under duress (5). Very few have the means or documents to flee abroad. Many live in illegality: they avoid banks, leave big cities, hide in forests. If anything makes sense from an anarchist perspective, it is to provide them with support, not to build drones that will massacre them or track them down so that someone else can massacre them. (6)



**Solidarity with
deserters and
those forcibly
mobilized!**

**Resistance to
those who
build machines
for their
killing!**

**Class solidarity
against the
murderous
logic of war!**

*Footage of terror in the eyes
shortly before the drone exploded*



NOTES AND SOURCES:

(1)

[Ruští dezertéři jsou brutálně mučeni. Svědectví přináší CNN | Newstream](#)

(2) For example, here

<https://cnn.iprima.cz/ukrajinska-droni-elita-v-akci-madarovi-ptaci-vyzobali-rusy-na-motocyklech-ti-zkaze-neujeli-479487>

<https://cnn.iprima.cz/zabery-ukrajinske-likvidace-okupantu-ruskeho-vojaka-zachranila-lopatka-467046>

<https://cnn.iprima.cz/zabery-hruzy-v-ocich-kratce-pred-vybuchem-ukrajinske-drony-likviduji-ruske-okupanty-475517>

Also here:

<https://www.msn.com/cs-cz/zpravy/other/ukrajinsk%C3%A9-drony-ude%C5%99ily-na-rusk%C3%A9-voj%C3%A1ky-v-lese/vi-AA1jzxmT>

What do we see in this video? A man in uniform with a backpack is walking through the forest

when suddenly he is shot by a drone. To the viewer, it is presented as a sensational video of how Ukraine's defenders stopped the occupier. However, it is not at all clear from the video who he was, why he was there, and whether he wanted to be there at all or was forced there by officers under threat of punishment. He is dead, and no one will ask him.

(3) Reality speaks for itself. Forced mobilization and high desertion rates in the Russian army prove that not every soldier on the front line is a Putin supporter. On the contrary, many are victims of Putinism, just like those who are being shelled in Ukrainian cities.

<https://antimilitarismus.noblogs.org/post/2025/02/04/over-russian-18000-soldiers-desert/>

(4) The *Solidrones* initiative, which reportedly manufactures "drones for anti-authoritarian fighters in Ukraine," states: "*Defenders consume tens of thousands of unmanned aerial vehicles every month, because a precise drone strike can take out a significantly more expensive tank and cripple the occupiers' advance.*" <https://www.afed.cz/text/8191/solidrones>

There is no doubt that they operate drones, which are weapons designed for destruction and killing. But even if someone wanted to argue that they can also use supply or reconnaissance drones, it is important to clarify one thing. Even in such cases, drones serve as a means of support for senseless killing. There is no significant difference between a forcibly mobilized soldier being shot down directly by a drone and being tracked down with the help of a drone and then killed by infantry (often also supplied by drones), artillery, or the air force.

A number of other questions are also relevant.

Can the so-called “anti-authoritarians” who manufacture or operate drones decide how and against whom they will be deployed? That might be conceivable in the case of guerrilla warfare organized autonomously outside the state and against the state. However, this is not the case with these people, who, as they themselves acknowledge, are integrated into the official state army of Ukraine. It is therefore the army authorities who determine how the drones will be used by the “anti-authoritarians,” and there can be no question of autonomy of action. What will these “anti-authoritarians” do when their officers next order them to use drones to track down deserters attempting to escape? After all, this is one of the agenda items of the Ukrainian army, which they voluntarily serve.

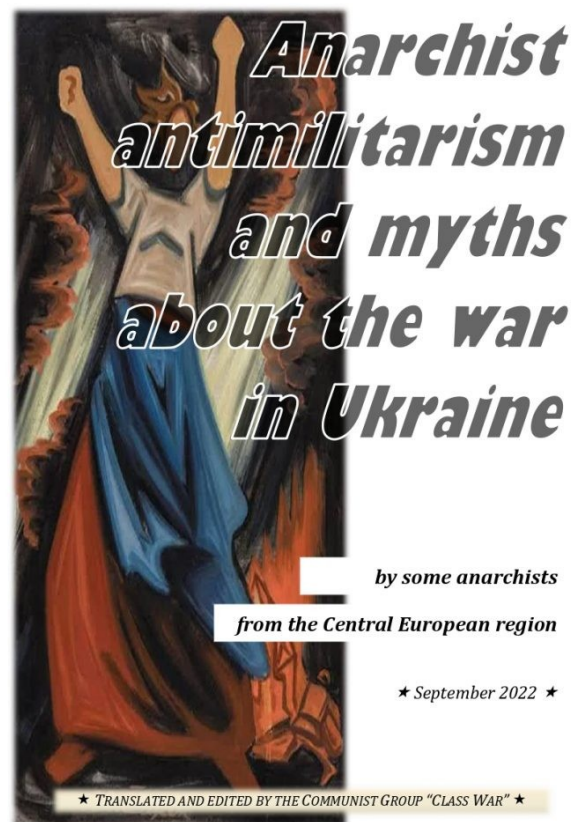
(5) According to statements by surviving Russian soldiers, they were not allowed to evacuate because a blocking unit guarding them from behind would not let them leave their positions on the front line and would shoot if they attempted to retreat. Forcing soldiers to advance may therefore be less risky in some cases than retreating and deserting. This cruel tactic was used by the army during the Stalin era, and today the Russian army is returning to this practice.

(6) The forcibly mobilisation and subsequent killing by drones is also well known to the population in Ukraine. However, we do not know of a single case where the production of drones by the Russian army has been financed with money by so-called anti-authoritarians or anarchists. In any case, we must condemn the forcibly mobilisation and murderous use of drones against the working class, whether these practices are used by the Ukrainian, Russian or any other state army.

source:

<https://antimilitarismus.noblogs.org/post/2025/08/27/how-many-forcibly-mobilized-people-will-your-drones-help-kill/>

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NOTES ON THE TOPIC OF MOBILIZATION IN RUSSIA

How does the mobilization of soldiers take place in Putin's Russia? What degree of coercion, harassment, and pressure do men of military age who are sent to the front have to face? How does the Russian population, and more specifically the working class, react to all this? Because we often ask ourselves such questions, we also asked an anarchist from Russia to get a clearer picture. He responded with a brief summary of the situation.

Censorship and war propaganda, introduced by Putin's regime, seek to hide the shocking reality from the world. On the other hand, we can see pro-Ukrainian war propaganda, which describes the Russian population as a mass of loyal supporters of Putinism who are voluntarily rushing into war. Sometimes it is really difficult to see and understand reality in all its breadth. That is why we consider the testimony of our comrade from Russia to be a very practical tool that can be helpful to us.

In general, it's worth mentioning from the outset that Russians generally have a rather pacifist mentality. Ever since the Soviet era, many have repeated the words, "If only there were no war." Many modern Russians have experienced collective trauma since the wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya. Popular songs have even been composed about this, reflecting the senseless deaths of yesterday's schoolchildren. And many Russians categorically did not want to repeat this painful experience. Even those loyal to Putin's rule (until 2022, of course) have used the argument that Putin supposedly "ensured a peaceful sky overhead." It's clear that there is a significant militaristic minority, and they currently enjoy a kind of information monopoly in Russia thanks to military censorship, but they are clearly not the majority.

Nevertheless, it's also worth noting that the flip side of the Russian pacifist mentality is a negative trait known as philistinism. Russians are against war, but they are not prepared to actively oppose it. This is especially true in a situation where the government has imposed strict military censorship, imprisons people en masse for criticizing Russia's military actions, and brutally disperses anti-war protests, arresting tens of thousands of people. Under these circumstances, the average Russian is more likely to keep a low profile and not express their point of view. This is precisely why many opinion polls claim high support for the war and Putin: however, this is false data, as those who are "for" have nothing to fear, while those who are "against" risk losing their freedom under the current regime. But what society is even less prepared to do is go directly to war. Putin understands this, and therefore is trying to conduct a less draconian mobilization than in Ukraine. It primarily affects the provinces, not Moscow, where publicity about war deaths will be minimal.

At the same time, Putin's government is trying to implement it cunningly: it formally doesn't send young men serving their mandatory military service to the front. But at the same time, these men, already drafted, are effectively forced to sign this contract. You know, humiliation, torture, and harassment of subordinates are widespread in the Russian army. There have been high-profile cases of young men dying during their mandatory service due to intolerable conditions or suffering injuries from beatings. All these men are effectively taken hostage and blackmailed into "voluntarily" going to war. There have also been cases of Russian authorities deceiving random people, persuading them to go off to supposedly "earn money," and then, after signing fake documents, sending them to the front without even informing their loved ones.

Russians don't want to go to war, so many of them don't report to military recruitment offices; many also try to feign illness. For example, I know of a former classmate of mine who was an excellent student and managed to enroll in university. But after receiving his draft notice, he decided to break his leg... Many also prefer to avoid mobilization abroad, but the Russian government is now trying to close this option by 2026.



There have also been protests against mobilization, for example, in Dagestan. Separately worth noting is the movement of wives of mo-

bilized soldiers, who have even come to protest at the Kremlin walls. This is especially noteworthy, considering that some of them initially supported the war but are now demanding the demobilization of soldiers. These were mostly peaceful pickets, which nevertheless attracted widespread attention.

There were also more violent forms of protest against mobilization, such as arson and attacks on military enlistment offices across the country. One such incident occurred in the city of Ust-Ilimsk, involving Ruslan Zinin. Ruslan Zinin, a logging truck driver from Ust-Ilimsk, lost his 19-year-old school friend Danil, who was serving his mandatory military service, at the very beginning of the war in March 2022. After mobilization was announced, Zinin learned that his cousin had received a draft notice.



On September 26, 2022, Zinin, fearing for the fate of his younger brother, went to the military enlistment office and, according to an eyewitness, tried to find out why his friend had received a draft notice even though he wasn't serving in the army. In response, the military enlistment office insulted Zinin. Ruslan then returned to the military enlistment office again that same day, this time with a sawed-off shotgun, and opened fire. As a result, he was sentenced to 19 years in prison.

source:

<https://antimilitarismus.noblogs.org/post/2025/10/13/notes-on-the-topic-of-mobilization-in-russia/>

STATEMENT
BY A DESERTER
FROM
THE RUSSIAN
ARMY

We are publishing here a letter from "Sasha" – a Russian conscientious objector.

On the cold morning of September 30, 2022, I was standing at a Moscow metro station, my heart pounding, when two police officers approached me. They stared at me and asked for my ID. They were supposed to take me to the police station to 'verify my documents', but I knew what that meant – my name had been added to the list of suspects, and the life I once knew was slipping away, caught in the relentless grip of a system from which I could no longer escape."

Hours of terror followed. I was taken to a mobilization center, surrounded by police and with no chance of escape. Before I knew it, I was on a bus full of recruits, heading into the unknown. Once I arrived at the training center, I refused to accept my situation. I tried to appeal the mobilization decision in the hope that I would be granted alternative civilian service instead. I submitted a formal request, but it was ignored. Despite my efforts, I was deployed. From an early age, I understood the power of kindness and how it can transform not only others but also myself. As a teenager, I was deeply influenced by watching documentaries about World War II. I promised myself that I would always offer a helping hand to those in need and never intentionally hurt anyone.

Even during my deployment, I tried to hold on to my convictions. I was surrounded by brutality, oppression, and injustice, but I refused to become a part of it. I offered them all the kindness I could. I helped people where I could and treated them with empathy and respect, even though everything around me seemed hopelessly dark. Despite these small acts of kindness, however, the psychological burden of being part of something I fundamentally disagreed with was unbearable.

I managed to escape and desert. I now live in Georgia. My experiences have changed my life and my goals. I am now determined to end this

unjust war and work toward a future where Russians can live freely and happily, without fear and oppression. I feel deep empathy for those who are still imprisoned in Russia and forced to give up their moral convictions just to

survive. I hope for a future where such choices will no longer be necessary. Your support would be invaluable to me.

source:

<https://dezerter.noblogs.org/post/2025/05/22/odmitame-zabijet-prohlaseni-vojenskych-odpiracu-z-ruska/>

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Everybody hates war. Most of all the people who send other people to die on the battlefield. They claim that they abhor it, but alas, they're forced to it by the other side. The other side, which is encroaching on our traditional hunting grounds.

The other side, which is invading a "sovereign" nation. *We have no choice! We must defend ourselves...* Which "we" are you a part of? Relentless propaganda on both sides pushes everyone to pick a side, to become an active participant or cheerleader in the war. Because the other side is truly horrific. And it always is.

The Russian army is accused of war crimes. A strange term, "war crime." A redundant one, really, because war is by definition a crime, the greatest of all crimes. Whatever the goal, the means are always mass murder and destruction. There is no war without atrocious massacres. The term suggests that there are two ways of waging war: a civilized one and a criminal one. If ever there was a difference between the two, it was erased by advances in military technology. (...)

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**OVER
RUSSIAN
18,000 SOLDIERS
DESERT**

Exact numbers of deserters from the Russian army are very difficult to track down and verify. However, in connection with the partial mobilisation, about 650,000 men of call-up age fled from Russia. According to the report of the Ukrainian Military Intelligence Service (HUR) dated 29th April 2024, soldiers of the Russian Southern Military District, whose units are stationed in Ukraine, are leaving their posts in an increasing number. Military intelligence reported that in total, more than 18,000 soldiers of the Southern Military District have left their posts, of whom about 12,000 belonged to the 8th Combined Arms Army. Of this number there are about 10,000 mobilised conscripts and 2,000 contract soldiers. In the Russian 58th Combined Arms Army the desertion rate is about 2,500 soldiers. Earlier in April, the British Ministry of Defence said Russian troops in Ukraine are mostly contract soldiers and reservists mobilised in late 2022, but pressure is often on conscripts to sign contracts. Russian deserters are being helped by the organization Idite Lesom ("Get Lost"). This organization has already helped almost 1,500 soldiers desert the Russian army and helped another 43,000 men completely avoid military withdrawal and deployment to war. To support them visit their website: <https://iditelesom.org/en>

MERRY CRISIS AND HAPPY NEW FEAR



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