

# COORDINATION HEADQUARTERS FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Foreigners as Russian servicemen fighting against Ukraine
AND WAR CRIMES
COMMITTED BY RUSSIA:
forced mobilization and the recruitment of prisoners

## CUBAN CITIZENS AT WAR AGAINST UKRAINE



#### **≈20 000** people

Cubans have been recruited into the Russian army, according to information from our sources, which is currently being verified

### 1038 people

The minimum confirmed number of Cubans who signed a contract with the Russian army in 2023-2025

#### 250 people

whose contracts
had expired but who
were not discharged
from military service

#### 40 people

Identified among the dead

## 2000 US dollars

Average monthly pay for participation in combat operations

## **35** years old

Average age of mercenaries



#### **SURVIVABILITY**



### The period from contract signing to death or capture

- It is difficult to calculate the exact average time between signing a contract and being killed in action or captured, as most foreigners are placed in "meat grinder" units where no proper records of losses are kept.
- ▶ Based on the documented data we have, the average time until death for a foreign fighter is 140-150 days.

- There are many cases of death occurring less than a month after signing a contract.
- The shortest documented time between signing and death is 7 days (Tajik citizen Farhod Babajanov).
- The majority of foreigners currently in Ukrainian captivity surrendered during their very first combat mission.



In case of a foreigner's death, the Russian state bears no responsibility

Massive losses among Russian personnel

Fear of social unrest if a new wave of mobilization is announced in Russia

# WHY RUSSIA RECRUITS FOREIGN NATIONALS INTO ITS ARMED FORCES

Generation of propaganda portraying supposed global support for Russia's actions in Ukraine

Possibility of creating a global network of agents or loyal militants after the war, made up of those who return home

Recruiting a foreigner is cheaper than a Russian citizen – there is no need to pay large enlistment bonuses or provide benefits

## PROBLEMS FACED BY MERCENARIES AFTER SIGNING CONTRACTS





#### **LANGUAGE BARRIER**

- Inability to understand the documents they are asked to sign
- Inability to understand instructions during military training
- Inability to understand orders on the battlefield
- Difficulty communicating with fellow soldiers



#### **DECEPTION**

- Misled or lied to about the type of work they would be doing in the military
- Promised payments not delivered
- Promised Russian citizenship not granted
- Confiscation of personal documents



#### **MODERN SLAVERY**

- Inability to terminate the contract
- Inability to contact family or consular representatives of their home country
- Abuse and racism from Russian commanders and fellow soldiers
- Extortion by Russian commanders or recruiters

#### PROJECT "I WANT TO LIVE"



The project "I want to live" (Khochu zhit) regularly publishes names of foreigners from third countries who are fighting against Ukraine in the Russian Armed Forces. Since April 2025, the project has published a list of more **than 10 000 foreigners recruited by Russia.** 



#### **CUBAN CITIZENS OF WAR PRISONERS**





Frank Dario Yarosse Manfuga

06.01.1989

from Guantanamo



González Turcas Yusbel

31.07.1973

from Santiago de Cuba

Signed a contract with the Russian Armed Forces in March 2023

In April 2024, he was wounded and taken prisoner Signed a contract with the Russian Armed Forces in May 2025 Was captured in August 2025

AMOUNT OF "WELCOME BONUSES" FOR CONTRACT ENLISTMENT BY REGIONS

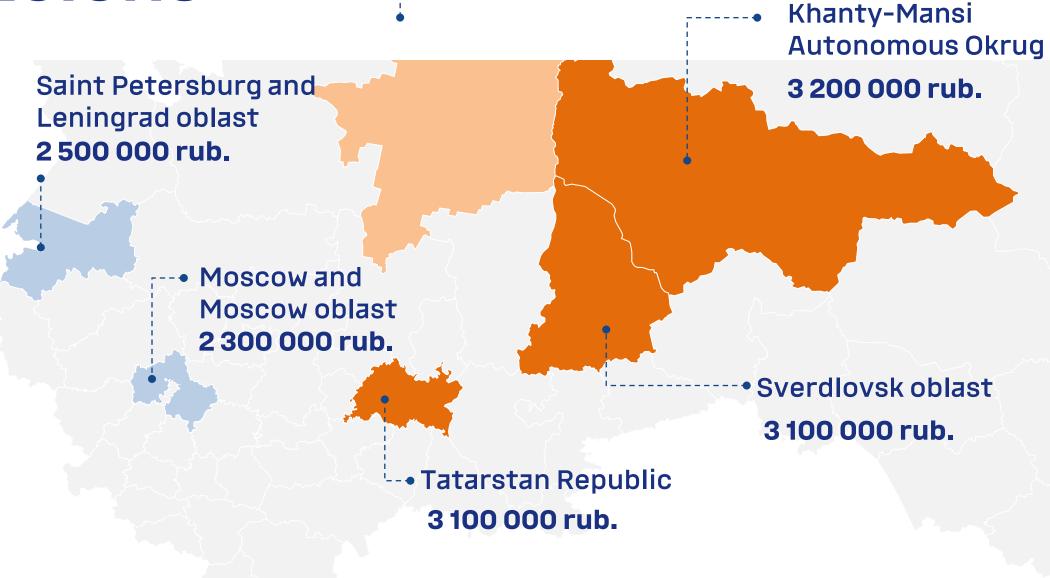
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Top 3 regions of the Russian Federation by amount of payments for signing a contract with the Ministry of Defense

Regions with the lowest payments for signing a contract

Komi Republic 400 000 rub.





Chechen Republic500 000 rub.



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