Russia and Ukraine both return 193 POWs in another exchange.

Ukrainian Prisoners-of-War returning to Ukraine yesterday.

Yesterday Ukraine and Russia conducted a prisoner-of-war exchange, with each side returning 193 prisoners-of-war. In a post on Telegram, President Zelenskyy said, “They defended Ukraine on different fronts,” adding that some of those freed had been wounded while others had faced criminal charges initiated by Russia. “It is important that exchanges continue and that our people return home,” he said, thanking all those involved in facilitating the swap, including frontline units contributing to what Kyiv calls an “exchange fund.” He said that some of the returned POWs had injuries. He also expressed gratitude to international partners supporting the process and reaffirmed that Ukraine continues working daily to bring home all of its captured troops.

According to Ukraine’s Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the released servicemen include members of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, the State Border Guard Service, the National Police, and the State Special Transport Service. The Coordination Headquarters said the latest POW exchange was the 73rd since the Russian attack began and continued agreements reached during a previous Easter exchange. Zelenskyy’s chief-of-staff, Kyrylo Budanov, as well as Russia’s ministry of defense, said the exchange was facilitated by the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates.

One soldier said, “It still hasn't sunk in that I'm home. I was in captivity for three years ... Our Ukrainian sky, our trees -- this is happiness."

David R. Cameron
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