# Deserters linked to execution of Russian military police commander amid rising army mutiny



Deserters fleeing Vladimir Putin's frontline in Ukraine are reportedly implicated in a shocking incident involving the murder of a military police platoon commander and two subordinates. This alleged execution occurred in the Luhansk region, a territory occupied by Russia yet internationally recognised as part of Ukraine. Gruesome images circulating in media depict the aftermath, with reports suggesting these refuseniks fled the scene immediately following the attack. In response to this incident, a manhunt for the escapees has been launched, underscoring the escalating crisis within Russian military ranks.

The issue of desertion is increasingly plaguing the Russian army, particularly as morale continues to dwindle amidst the ongoing conflict. Described by some as a "meat grinder," the frontline in Ukraine has become a perilous environment not only for Ukrainian forces but also for Russian soldiers, many of whom are unwilling to continue fighting. Russia has witnessed a surge in troops refusing to serve, a trend that began shortly after the invasion of Ukraine was initiated in February 2022.

Recent history highlights the dangers faced by those contemplating desertion. A leaked video from June 2023 uncovered an alarming scene where three armed Russian soldiers were seen gunning down fellow servicemen who attempted to flee the battlefield. This episode vividly illustrates the extreme measures being deployed to enforce compliance among troops, reminiscent of tactics used during the Stalin era, wherein commanders have reportedly been instructed to shoot deserters. British intelligence has noted that 'barrier units' are now being utilised, a chilling echo of past military practices to maintain order.

The landscape of desertion is not merely limited to immediate punitive actions. Many soldiers report severe psychological and physical strains from prolonged engagements in combat, leading to personal accounts of escape from intolerable conditions. An in-depth report reveals that deserters grapple with the dual threat of execution and a lack of support if they seek refuge abroad, as government officials ramp up efforts to track down those who flee. The environment has cultivated an atmosphere where some soldiers express fear of returning to Russia due to potential imprisonment or re-deployment, raising further ethical and humanitarian questions about the treatment of military personnel.

In a stark illustration of the severity of this situation, vocal Kremlin figures like Vladimir Solovyov have publicly called for reintroducing the death penalty for those accused of treason, including those who retreat from battle. His comments surfaced shortly after Russia's withdrawal from Kherson, highlighting the mounting internal pressures within the armed forces as they grapple with significant losses and a faltering recruitment base.

As the conflict endures, the Russian military is not only battling an adversary in Ukraine but also confronting a growing insurrection among its own ranks. The implications of these desertions reveal deep-rooted issues of discipline, morale, and the broader societal impact of a war that has become increasingly contested not only on the battlefield but also behind the scenes within the Russian command structure.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2065778/vladimir-putin-frontline-shambles-deserters), [[2]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2065778/vladimir-putin-frontline-shambles-deserters)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2065778/vladimir-putin-frontline-shambles-deserters), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/russian-deserters-the-soldiers-fleeing-vladimir-putins-army-13083247), [[6]](https://www.livemint.com/news/world/russia-hunts-down-deserters-to-backfill-its-massive-war-losses-11724136454168.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/11/04/russia-threatening-shoot-deserting-soldiers-behind-front-line/), [[5]](https://www.newsweek.com/putin-ally-death-penalty-deserters-traitors-russia-retreat-1758688)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/russian-deserters-the-soldiers-fleeing-vladimir-putins-army-13083247), [[7]](https://www.dw.com/en/russias-war-in-ukraine-forcing-deserters-to-the-front-line/a-69825197)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2065778/vladimir-putin-frontline-shambles-deserters> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2065778/vladimir-putin-frontline-shambles-deserters> - An article from Express.co.uk reports on Russian soldiers deserting the frontlines in Ukraine, allegedly resulting in the deaths of a military police platoon commander and two subordinates in the Luhansk region. The piece highlights the increasing number of Russian troops refusing to fight, with a hunt launched for the escapees. It also references a previous incident in June 2023, where Russian soldiers were filmed shooting at fellow servicemen attempting to flee. The article underscores the persistent issue of desertion within the Russian military since the invasion began in February 2022.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/11/04/russia-threatening-shoot-deserting-soldiers-behind-front-line/> - The Telegraph reports that Russian soldiers are being threatened with execution if they desert the front lines in Ukraine. British intelligence suggests that Russia has deployed 'barrier units' to shoot deserters, a tactic reminiscent of Stalin's methods during World War II. The article highlights the low morale and indiscipline within Russian forces, with commanders reportedly using extreme measures to compel soldiers to fight.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/russian-deserters-the-soldiers-fleeing-vladimir-putins-army-13083247> - Sky News provides an in-depth look at Russian soldiers deserting the army amid the conflict in Ukraine. The article features personal accounts of deserters who fled the front lines, discussing the mental and physical toll of the war, the challenges of escaping, and the fear of facing severe penalties upon return to Russia. It also touches on the broader issue of desertion within the Russian military and the lack of support for those seeking asylum abroad.
5. <https://www.newsweek.com/putin-ally-death-penalty-deserters-traitors-russia-retreat-1758688> - Newsweek reports on Vladimir Solovyov, a Kremlin propagandist and ally of President Putin, advocating for the reinstatement of the death penalty for 'traitors' and soldiers who retreat from battle in Ukraine. Solovyov's comments came shortly after Russia's withdrawal from Kherson, highlighting the internal pressures and punitive measures within the Russian military during the conflict.
6. <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/russia-hunts-down-deserters-to-backfill-its-massive-war-losses-11724136454168.html> - LiveMint discusses Russia's efforts to address massive war losses by hunting down deserters and backfilling positions. The article details the punitive measures taken against draft dodgers and those unwilling to fight, including imprisonment and redeployment. It also highlights the challenges faced by Russian soldiers, such as coerced enlistment and indefinite service, leading to widespread desertion and the government's response to these issues.
7. <https://www.dw.com/en/russias-war-in-ukraine-forcing-deserters-to-the-front-line/a-69825197> - Deutsche Welle reports on the Russian military's practice of forcing deserters back to the front lines during the invasion of Ukraine. The article features testimonies from soldiers who have been coerced into returning to combat, highlighting the psychological and physical toll of the war, the lack of support for those seeking to leave, and the broader issues of discipline and morale within the Russian military.