# Russian Forces Launch Offensive in Kharkiv as Ukrainian POWs Receive Heroic Welcome



**Russian Forces Launch New Offensive in Northeastern Ukraine**

Russia has opened a new front in its invasion of Ukraine with a surprise offensive in the northeastern region of Kharkiv. This assault began earlier this month, compelling Ukraine to redirect troops from other regions to defend its positions.

**Key Fronts in the Conflict:**

Russian troops have rapidly taken control of several villages, aiming to capture key settlements like Vovchansk and Lyptsi. Control over Lyptsi, north of Kharkiv, would allow Russian forces to position artillery within range of Kharkiv city. This offensive diverts Ukrainian resources and creates a buffer against Ukrainian attacks on Russian border regions, including Belgorod.

**Eastern Front – Avdiivka and Bakhmut:**

Russia had been concentrating efforts in the east before the Kharkiv offensive, capturing Avdiivka in February and inching westwards towards Pokrovsk. In Bakhmut, Russia is pushing towards Chasiv Yar to gain high ground near Kramatorsk.

**Southern Front – Robotyne:**

**Ukrainian POWs Receive Heroic Welcome After Release**

Nineteen Ukrainian prisoners of war, who famously defied a Russian warship's ultimatum at Snake Island, have been released in a prisoner exchange. Initially believed dead, they were held for nearly 800 days before their return. Greeted with patriotic songs and flags, they were driven to reunite with their families.

Among them was Maryana Chechelyuk, previously held in Olenivka detention center. The incident and their defiant response have been commemorated on postage stamps, symbolizing Ukrainian resilience.

President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed ongoing efforts to secure the release of other captives and emphasized Ukraine's determination to bring all its people home.