

4.2.6. Conscription quotas and raids

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As noted by Sergey Krivenko in an interview with the Danish Immigration Service (DIS) and the Swedish Migration Office, since 2022, military enlistment offices have increasingly employed the so-called ‘one-day-draft’ practice whereby persons, who came to a military enlistment office ‘for a specific purpose’, such as collecting documents, are immediately conscripted into the military service. This practice is more common in larger cities, as residents of rural areas tend to adhere to their conscription summonses ‘to a greater extent than in larger and more densely populated places.’[813]

During the conscription period of spring 2025, police conducted raids to meet conscription quotas across the country,[814] including in Tatarstan, Dagestan, the Kursk region and St. Petersburg.[815] According to organisations helping conscripts, differently from autumn 2024, in spring 2025, these raids were not random, as police followed specific ‘lists’ rather than ‘picking up everyone on the street.’[816] Most reports on raids were from Moscow,[817] where police detained individuals with pending conscription summonses,[818] conducting raids at fitness clubs [819] and detaining men at metro stations.[820] Most persons who were detained were identified through CCTV cameras and detained in metro, or located at their homes or workplaces.[821]

During the spring 2025 raids, legal grounds for exemption or deferral from military service as well as for conscientious objection were often ignored,[822] whereas the authorities attempted to conscript individuals, or make a conscription decision, within one day.[823] In St. Petersburg, police reportedly detained at least 200 conscript-age men and attempted to send some of them to military service within 24 hours, including those ‘with chronic illnesses and medical deferrals.’ [824]

During the autumn 2025 draft, individuals were reportedly similarly detained in the metro, near homes, and on the street.[825] As noted by a human rights lawyer, conscription-related raids in Russia typically occur towards the end of the draft period, when regional military enlistment offices struggle to meet their conscription quotas. In these cases, military enlistment offices involve law enforcement, primarily the police, to meet the recruitment plan. Raids are more common in major cities, such as Moscow and St. Petersburg, which have higher living standards and lower number of people willing to take part in the obligatory military service, whereas quotas in these locations are higher due to higher population density.[826] According to Huseyn Aliyev, conscription quotas remain unmet in almost every region, with Chechnya being ‘an outstanding exception’, consistently claiming to have exceeded its quotas for both conscripts and mobilised personnel.[827]

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  Huseyn Aliyev, Online interview with EUAA, 7 October 2025

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