

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 clubs⁸¹⁹ 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

⁸¹³

Denmark, DIS, and Sweden, Swedish Migration Agency, Russia: Conscription, March 2025, [url](#), p. 19

⁸¹⁴

ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update, 30 April 2025, [url](#); Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 4

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Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 4

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Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), p. 4

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Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 4

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ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update, 30 April 2025, [url](#); Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), pp. 2, 4

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Insider (The), ????????? ??????? ? ??????? ??? ?? ?????? ???????-???? ?????? [Security forces raided Moscow's second fitness club], 2 April 2025, [url](#); ISW, Russian Force Generation And Technological Adaptations Update, 30 April 2025, [url](#)

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Insider (The), ? ?????? ?????????? ??????? ?? ?????????????? ?????? ?????????????? ? ?????? [Raids on conscripts have begun in Moscow. People are being detained in the underground], [url](#)

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Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), p. 2; Novaya Gazeta Europe, ????? ??????????. ??? ?????????? ?????? ???, ??? ?????????? ?????????????? [The right to evade. How the work of those who help conscripts has changed], 1 October 2025, [url](#)

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Prizyv k sovesti et al, Resistance during the 2025 Spring Conscription, August 2025, [url](#), p. 3

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Idite lesom, Telegram, 31 October 2025, [url](#)

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Human rights lawyer, Online interview with EUAA, 24 October 2025

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Huseyn Aliyev, Online interview with EUAA, 7 October 2025

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