

More Than 650 Released in Ukraine Prisoner Exchange

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The  **Moscow Times**

More than 650 people have been released in the biggest prisoner exchange to date in the Ukrainian conflict, separatist authorities have announced.

Ukrainian officials signed the deal with the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk on Thursday, the Lenta news site reported.

Ukraine released 47 prisoners, while the two breakaway republics released a total of 618 people, said Olga Kobtseva, spokesperson for Luhansk Contact Group for Humanitarian Affairs in Minsk, Belarus.

The two sides have made 15 prisoner exchanges since February 2015, releasing 328 detainees in total, Kobtseva said.

The Ukrainian conflict has been ongoing since February 2014, killing an estimated 9,000 people.

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