

# 12 Chechen Soldiers Dismissed for Refusing Syria Deployment

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Kto Tut / YouTube

Twelve Chechen soldiers serving in Russian Defense Ministry units at a base in Khankala, east of Grozny, have been dismissed for refusing to deploy to Syria, the local news portal Caucasian Knot has reported.

According to Caucasian Knot, [a unit of 500 troops](#) was to be deployed to Syria to serve as military police. The 12 men who refused to deploy were all residents of Chechnya. As a result, their military contracts were ended prematurely.

Caucasian Knot reported that the unit included Chechens, residents of the neighboring republic Dagestan, as well as Russians.

Last week, a video taken by one of the soldiers showed his unit preparing for the upcoming deployment to Syria.

**Embed:**

On Tuesday, the news agency Rosbalt reported that a criminal case had been initiated against five of the unit's personnel, including one officer.

The charges accuse that the unit's command of failing to properly brief their subordinates. As a result, one member made the video and distributed it across social networks.

According to the court, the video "endangered the lives of the troops, by betraying information about their movements."

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/12/13/12-chechen-soldiers-dismissed-for-refusing-syria-deployment-a56518>