

Russia Returns 9 Ukrainian Children With Help From Qatar

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Maria Lvova-Belova and Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. **Maria Lvova-Belova / Telegram**

Authorities in Moscow returned nine Ukrainian children with the help of Qatari mediators, Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, [announced](#) Thursday.

Lvova-Belova posted photos on Telegram showing her alongside Qatari Ambassador Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, speaking to the children at the Qatari Embassy in Moscow.

"There are eight boys, ages 12 to 17, and one 17-year-old girl. She had been living with her grandmother in Crimea but wanted to reunite with her mother in Kyiv, so we facilitated her return," Lvova-Belova wrote.

She added that her office has helped return 80 children from Ukraine and third countries, as well as 13 children from families with relatives in Russia. Lvova-Belova also thanked Qatari mediators for their support.

Since July 2023, Qatar has helped bring back scores of Ukrainian children taken to Russia and occupied territories. Kyiv accuses Moscow of unlawfully taking over 19,000 Ukrainian children since the full-scale invasion, a claim the Russian authorities deny.

Fewer than 400 children have been returned to Ukraine so far. In April, through Qatari mediators, Ukraine [submitted](#) a list of 561 children whose return it is seeking from Russia.

Last year, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, accusing them of unlawfully deporting children from Ukraine.

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