

North Korean Troops Blowing Themselves Up to Avoid Capture: Kyiv

North Korean troops deployed to Russia to fight alongside Vladimir Putin's forces in the war against Ukraine are taking their own lives to avoid capture, officials have said.

Newsweek contacted the Kremlin, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry and the North Korean Embassy in London for comment by email on Monday.

Why It Matters

Ukraine and South Korea said in December that Pyongyang had deployed an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 servicemen to southern Russia to fight Ukrainian forces. Neither Moscow nor Pyongyang has confirmed the deployment of troops from North Korea to fight Ukrainian forces.

President Volodymyr Zelensky announced on Saturday that two had been captured alive. The low number of North Korea troops taken captive appears to highlight a stark unwillingness by these fighters to surrender.

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