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Kiev's backers demanded Ukraine conscript 18-year-olds – Zelensky

Lowering the draft age was one condition for tightening sanctions on Russia, the Ukrainian leader has claimed



FILE PHOTO: Vladimir Zelensky. © Win McNamee / Getty Images

Some of Kiev's Western backers demanded that Ukraine lower the age of military conscription to 18 in return for their support for stricter sanctions on Russia, Vladimir Zelensky has claimed.

Manpower shortages in Ukraine's army have triggered a wave of forced conscription raids across the country which the

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public is increasingly opposing.

In an interview with Hungarian daily Valasz Online on Tuesday, Zelensky acknowledged that mobilization remains a major issue.

"Mobilization is a problem in every war. Ukraine is no exception... People are tired," he said, estimating that Kiev can mobilize 27,000 people a month.

Despite his Western backers seeking it, Zelensky has opposed mandatory conscription of 18-year-olds.

"It is not the number of people that matters, but weapons and technology," he said, adding that the same is true for the scale of Western sanctions against Russia.

"At the same time, Western partners list the reasons why they did not decide on sanctions, saying Ukraine has not mobilized from the age of 18," Zelensky stated.

Kiev attempted to placate the Western countries demanding conscription of 18-year olds. *"We provided an opportunity for 18-24 year-olds to show that they too can serve if our partners want them to,"* he said. *"Thousands are fighting on the front lines without proper weapons,"* he said.

Ukraine announced general mobilization in February 2022, barring most men between 18 and 60 from leaving the country. In 2024, faced with mounting losses, the country lowered the conscription age from 27 to 25 and tightened mobilization rules. The forced draft campaign has resulted in numerous violent clashes between recruitment officers and potential conscripts.

Kiev launched a new voluntary military recruitment campaign earlier this year, targeting

governor (VIDEO)

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men aged 18 to 24. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has called the program *“a one-way ticket,”* suggesting that Ukraine is *“annihilating”* its youth.

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Russian officials have long said that the West is ready to fight Moscow *“until the last Ukrainian.”*

Media reports have claimed that former-US President Joe Biden’s staff attempted to pressure Kiev to reduce the draft age from 25 to 18. Former-Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned at the time that Ukraine would have to make *“hard decisions”* on mobilization.

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F Filan INC 6/10/2025 at 6:27 PM 0

Didn't this coke-addicted clown just tell the whole world that they only lost 42,000 men !!?? Ukraine population was 38,000,000 !?? Why is he down to recruiting children !!??

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Joseph Lieberman 6/10/2025 at 6:27 PM 0

So,,, the warmonger, foreign proxy benefactor, told zelensky
«Unless you draft the remaining children as soon as they turn 18 and send them to their death we will not pressure Russia using ukraine as an excuse.....»
Don't you understand mr zelensky,,, you agreed to murder all able bodied men and destroy their families and then hand over everything for financial gain.

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M 6/10/2025 at 6:26 PM 0

«Kiev's backers demanded Ukraine conscript 18-year-olds – Zelensky... Lowering the draft age was one condition for tightening sanctions on Russia, the Ukrainian leader has claimed»
They should draft 8-year olds. Why? The Russians don't kill children, so those children could walk straight to Moscow and capture it. Go for it, zelensky. I will send you an invoice for

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Israel's Mossad is everywhere and all over Ukraine, Russia has won! – Col. Lawrence Wilkerson

walk straight to Moscow and capture it. Go for it, Zelensky. I will send you an invoice for my consulting.

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Bee Somsak 6/10/2025 at 6:20 PM

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Just goes to show how desperate Ukraine has become. More surrendering on the front lines as Russia's tactics: surround them — isolate — surrender. Time to knock out Zelensky

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SS Steinkern 6/10/2025 at 6:17 PM

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They are definitely trying to get to the last Ukrainian ... next 14- 18 year olds!

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Anthony Raymond 6/10/2025 at 6:15 PM

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The Coalition of Willing Terrorists are no strangers to recruiting 'Child Soldiers' for their



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