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Tens of thousands protest German conscription plans (VIDEOS)

Students rallied in some 100 cities and towns across the country against Berlin's military buildup

Published 26 Sep, 2026 00:10

Tens of thousands of students took to the streets across Germany on Friday to protest the government's military service reform amid Berlin's push to expand the armed forces, citing the alleged threat from Russia.

Organizers of the *"School Strike Against Conscription"* said around 45,000 students joined demonstrations in some 100 cities and towns on Friday. Police did not provide a nationwide figure, but reported around 2,400 protesters in Berlin, while hundreds more rallied in Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Munich, and Hamburg.



Footage from the video agency Ruptly showed crowds marching through Hamburg carrying banners reading *"We won't fight in your wars," "Education instead of bombs," "Not our war" and "Russia is not our enemy."*

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Some protesters also targeted Chancellor Friedrich Merz, with banners reading *“No Merz, no war, no billionaires!”*



“I don’t want to see my child sent off to war by politicians like the ones we currently have in Germany,” one protester told Ruptly. She said she was “more afraid of [European Commission President] Ursula von der Leyen, Merz... than of any Russian president.”

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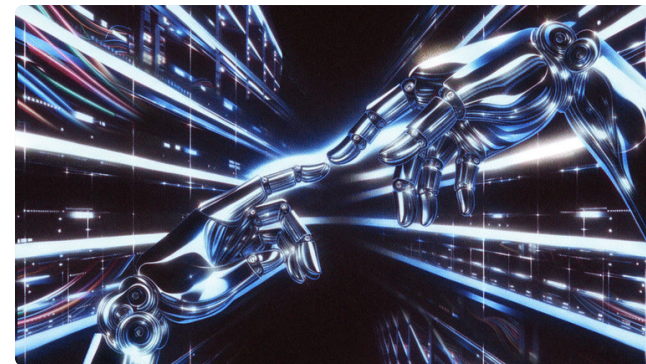


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A student described the reform as a *“form of war preparation,”* arguing that young people could eventually be forced *“to shoot at young people... for the interests that aren’t ours... but the interests of profit-hungry arms corporations and politicians.”*

Germany’s Military Service Modernization Act, which took effect in January, requires 18-year-old men to complete a questionnaire on their willingness and suitability for military service. Mandatory medical examinations for men born in 2008 or later are due to begin in July 2027. Service remains voluntary, but parliament can activate compulsory military service if recruitment targets are not met or the security situation deteriorates.



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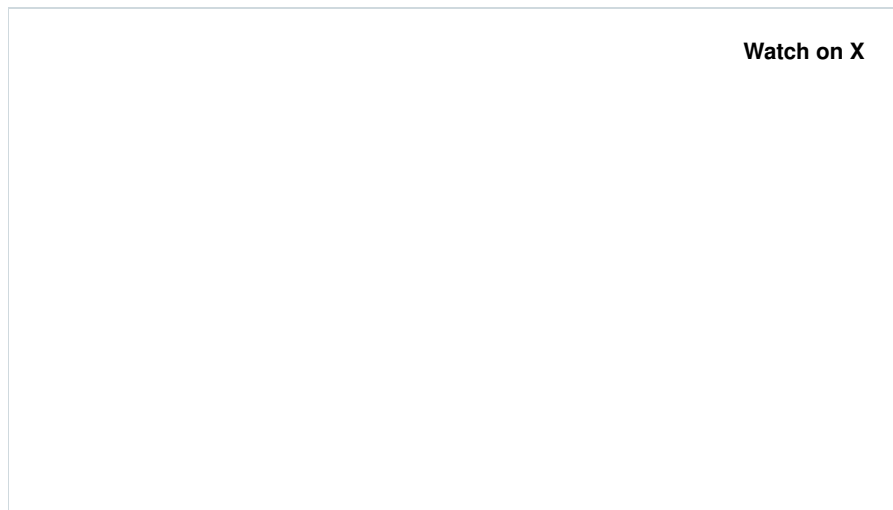
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The government aims to expand the Bundeswehr to more than 260,000 active troops and 200,000 reservists by 2035, citing Germany's NATO commitments and what it describes as a worsening security environment in Europe.

[READ MORE: Germany could bring back conscription next year – senior MP](#)

Defense Minister Boris Pistorius has previously warned that Germany must be prepared for a potential conflict with Russia. Moscow has repeatedly rejected claims that it intends to attack NATO countries, describing them as *"nonsense."*

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Mark Shane 9/26/2026 at 12:30 PM

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Giving tens of thousands people guns who do not want to fight or die for a bunch of clowns and then have a handful of these clowns stand in front of them saying «now go and fight my war» I wonder how that will turn out

Reply
- 

Venom 9/26/2026 at 9:23 AM

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Protest all you want but you WILL go to fight and so will your children.
To make this go away. You must dismantle your government and remove these people who are against you.

Reply
- M

Mark Shane 9/26/2026 at 12:25 PM ↑

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Dismantle isn't the word I'd use but you're right

Reply
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Jokerontherun Swijjles 9/26/2026 at 2:37 AM

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Trump might enact the draft. Watch for false flags.

Reply
- R

Richard S 9/26/2026 at 2:41 AM ↑

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No he wouldnt. Biden & Harris both wanted to draft Americans, because Democrats are an exact EU clone of every policy. While, Trump probably hates most of the EU leaders.

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[reply](#)**T Tim Ebrahimy** 9/26/2026 at 2:56 AM [↑](#)

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Both parties answer to Billionaire Zionists

[Reply](#)**W William Parke** 9/26/2026 at 12:22 PM [↑](#)

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Precisely!!!

[Reply](#)**T Tim Ebrahimy** 9/26/2026 at 2:56 AM [↑](#)

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Will his son get drafted, just saying

[Reply](#)**b bobs yeruncle** 9/26/2026 at 6:55 AM [↑](#)

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Bone spurs....

[Reply](#)**B Buck S** 9/26/2026 at 3:11 AM [↑](#)

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I can just see it now the furry brigade.

[Reply](#)**W William Parke** 9/26/2026 at 12:21 PM

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Notice there are no migrants protesting??

[Reply](#)**A Arne** 9/26/2026 at 12:20 PM

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Germany is back again treating its population like cattle.

[Reply](#) **ootpik2** 9/26/2026 at 10:15 AM

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Who thinks ARMS are for FREE ?

They cost money, someone is going to PAY

][n one way, or, another.][t will be PAID !

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