



Picture „[2017. Lviv. Ukraine](#)“ by [bobobahmat](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

## Russian "child abductions": Western propaganda exposed

June 4, 2025 by [Thomas Oysmüller](#) 2.5 minutes reading time

**Russia is accused of abducting tens of thousands of Ukrainian children. However, negotiations in Istanbul revealed a list of 339 missing children.**

Western media and politicians have been claiming for years that Russia has abducted, "Russified" and deprived tens of thousands of children of their identity since the beginning of the attack on Ukraine. Based on these allegations, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin. However, this story collapsed during Monday's round of hearings in Istanbul.

## Reality and propaganda

In mid-April, Bilderberger and Austrian Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger (NEOS) declared: "Thousands of Ukrainian children are still missing - abducted by Russia, separated from their families, their homeland and their identity. They were taken to remote Russian regions, given up for adoption or put into institutions - far away from everything they knew. A systematic attempt to erase their origins. The return of all Ukrainian children abducted to Russia must be part of the peace process. Without them, there can be no just, lasting peace."

Even the Ukrainian delegation took a different view on Monday. In a recent article, [NachDenkSeiten](#) compares the reality with the Western war propaganda that was exposed by the negotiations.

Both sides exchanged memoranda with conditions for a peace agreement - both made considerable maximum demands. Ukraine also handed over a list of 339 missing children - a figure that is far below the "tens of thousands" or - according to Meinl-Reisinger - "thousands" reported in the West.

Politicians such as Katrin Göring-Eckardt (Greens) and Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann (FDP) reinforced the narrative, speaking of thousands of abducted children and a "high number of unreported cases" without any solid evidence. Even the Red Cross was accused of collaborating with Russia.

So why did Ukraine only hand over a list of 339 children?

These accusations culminated in the ICC's arrest warrant against Putin and the Russian children's envoy Mariya Lvova-Belova. Ukraine could have provided evidence, but apparently there is none. The Russian side, on the other hand, explains that the 339 children were evacuated from the war zone "for security reasons". Ukraine also applies this practice. Fortunately. The German Federal Criminal Police Office also found 161 allegedly "abducted" children in Germany, most of whom had entered the country with their parents.

The NachDenkSeiten summarize:

The affair shows a pattern. False information is spread in Germany without politicians or the media having to fear any consequences. Instead of coming to terms with the situation, the story will probably soon be replaced by new disinformation campaigns. This undermines democratic principles, as there is no accountability. Figures such as Göring-Eckardt or Strack-Zimmermann are ready to spread new narratives while the truth falls by the wayside.

You don't actually learn anything about the relatively short list. Neither the state media nor the Foreign Minister relativize their accusation, which they have been repeating for years.