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By Tom Parfitt

Captured 'Russian soldiers' in Ukraine face terrorism trial Kiev says alleged special forces officers came "with guns in their hands against our citizens"

Захоплені в Україні «російські солдати» в суді розглядатимуться як терористи.

Київ говорить, що ці офіцери прийшли «зі зброєю в руках проти наших громадян»

Олександр Александров та Євген Єрофєєв, два російські офіцери спецназу, захоплені в полон на території східної України та звинувачені в тероризмі. На даний момент вони знаходяться на лікуванні в київському госпіталі. Росія заперечує перебування своїх військ на території України, за словами представника Володимира Путіна вони не знають хто ці два солдати. Київ заявляє, що це вже не перший випадок перебування російських солдат у Донбасі.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/ukraine/11614128/Captured-Russian-soldiers-in-Ukraine-face-terrorism-trial.html>



Two alleged Russian special forces officers captured in Ukraine will be prosecuted on terrorism charges, officials in Kiev have said.

The pair, identified as Alexander Alexandrov and Yevgeny Yerofeyev, were taken prisoner on Saturday on the edge of Shchastya, a town in the Luhansk region of Ukraine that is held by government troops.

They were delivered to Kiev and are both being treated for wounds at a military hospital in the Ukrainian capital.

Russia denies sending troops to eastern Ukraine to support pro-Moscow separatists there and Vladimir Putin's spokesman said on Monday that he had no knowledge of the two soldiers.

Valentyn Nalivaychenko, head of Ukraine's Security Service, said the pair had been part of a group which had carried out acts "with a terrorist aim with guns in their hands against our citizens".

They would be prosecuted for "terrorist activity and terrorist crimes", he added.

Both men were reportedly injured while fighting Ukrainian forces and a video published online showed Mr Alexandrov confirming he is a sergeant, and saying he and his comrades were from the Third Brigade of the Russian Army's Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) based in Tolyatti, a special forces unit.

"We were found out," he said. "I was wounded in the leg as I tried to get away. There were 14 of us in the group. We've been here for four or five days."

It was impossible to verify whether or not Mr Alexandrov was speaking under duress, but the Ukrainian military gave a briefing on Monday in which officers described how the Russian soldiers were seized as they retreated from Shchastya.

Ukrainian servicemen had carried the two captives "on their shoulders" in order to take them for treatment, said Viktor Muzhenko, chairman of the Ukrainian General Staff.

A Ukrainian official claimed Russian forces had tried to shell the area in order to kill their soldiers so they would not give proof of Russian military presence in Ukraine.

Viktor Nikolyuk, commander of the 92nd Brigade, displayed a Val assault rifle taken from Mr Yerofeyev, saying it was a kind used by Russian special forces.

The GRU officers had been part of a "sabotage-reconnaissance group" that aimed to seize a thermal power station in Shchastya, according to Markiyanyan Lubkivsky, an aide to Mr Nalivaychenko.

One of the two captives, who are reportedly 28 and 30 years old, was wounded in the leg, the other in the shoulder.

The separatist Luhansk People's Republic claimed the two men were local militia fighters, not Russian soldiers.

Two Ukrainian soldiers were injured and one killed during the engagement in Shchastya, said Mr Nikolyuk.

It is not the first time that Russian servicemen have been seized. A group of ten paratroopers from the 331st regiment of Russia's 98th Guards Airborne Division were taken prisoner in Ukraine last year.

Mr Putin, Russia's president, claimed they had strayed over the border from Russia "by accident". The men were later sent back to Russia.