

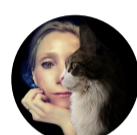


Valentina Melnikova, secretary of the Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia, says that [data](#) on the # of [war casualties](#) is *correct*. Nonetheless, mothers of [soldiers](#) don't speak up nor search for their sons. It is for a number of reasons.

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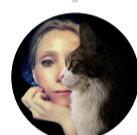


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1) fear or repression by [government](#) :  
we must remember that many of them have more than one child, so the in addition to the son in [army](#) the rest of their children are most likely still in .

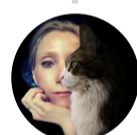
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They can't do much about the one dead son but they still try to "protect" the rest of family from possible governmental repercussions.

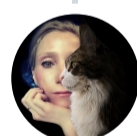
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2) brainwashing:  
majority of recruits, and hence their mothers, come from faraway Eastern parts of  where only two state TV channels are available and internet limited, making it the perfect breeding ground for propaganda.

1 2 21



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They may still believe that their sons died in the name of 'greater good' as saviors of .

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