

# Safe return of Ukrainian prisoners of war: Foreign Secretary's statement

Press release

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has issued a statement on the safe return of Ukrainian prisoners of war.



Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

I welcome the safe return of Ukrainian prisoners of war and one civilian, including five British nationals. Prisoners of war from other countries held by Russia-backed proxies have also been returned. This brings to an end many months of uncertainty and suffering, including the threat of the death penalty, for them and their families, at the hands of Russia.

Tragically that was not the case for one of those detained and our thoughts remain with the family of Paul Urey.

I would like to express my gratitude to President Zelenskyy and his team for their efforts to secure their release, and to HRH Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman and his team, for their assistance. I continue to call on Russia to comply with International Humanitarian Law and not exploit prisoners of war and civilian detainees for political purposes.

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