

Germany To Expand Monitoring on Conscripts



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Germany begins to monitor eligible conscripts, as “voluntary conscription” fails to increase army recruitment.

Details. According to the 2026 military service law, all German men aged 17–45 must now obtain formal permission from the army’s recruitment and assessment center to leave the country if their absence lasts longer than 3 months, even in peacetime.

► The German Defence Ministry claimed that the new rule will not be strictly enforced, promising exemptions as long as military service in Germany remains “voluntary.” However, this leniency could quickly end, as the government now has the legal power to activate compulsory measures whenever the capitalist class needs to.

► Despite Germany’s new program to increase military recruitment, the number of soldiers is still stagnant. Officials doubt that recruitment goals will be reached through volunteers alone, even with a 20% rise in sign-ups. If the German army has failed to increase its size by +20,000 troops at the end of 2026, the new law stipulates that a mandatory draft should be enacted.

Context. The new monitoring rule echoes a broader trend of militarization across Europe. Germany aims to increase its army size by 280,000 soldiers over the next decade and is already registering eligible conscripts. France aims to add 50,000 more soldiers and Croatia reintroduced compulsory conscription, planning to recruit around 4,000 men each year. European states have also been expanding digital surveillance, amidst escalating fascisation.