



A Russian soldier is on trial in Ukraine for the first time. He is accused of killing a Ukrainian soldier called Penguin.



The trial is in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. Kurashov was in a Russian unit of freed prisoners that attacked Ukraine in January 2024.



Kurashov shot Hodniuk as he tried to give up. Kurashov first said he didn't do it, but later said he did to make things quicker.



The UN reports many battlefield killings by Russian troops. Kurashov's trial is rare as a suspect is captured and tried.



Three soldiers say Kurashov shot Hodniuk while he knelt with hands up. Kurashov says another soldier did it.



The trial is special because Ukraine doesn't have war crimes courts. A local court with three judges is handling it.



Kurashov's unit was told not to take prisoners. This breaks the Geneva Convention, which says surrendered people must not be harmed.



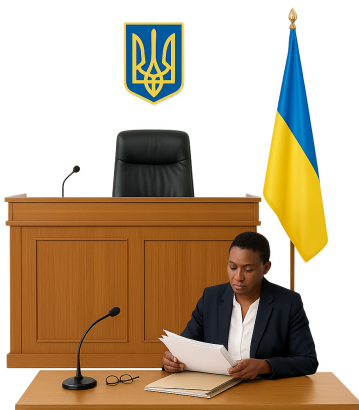
Kurashov lived in an orphanage and was jailed in Russia. He joined the war to avoid prison. His group was not trained well and sent to fight quickly.



If found guilty, Kurashov could face life in prison. However, he hopes to be exchanged back to Russia. His trial is still ongoing.



The case shows the challenges of prosecuting war crimes during an ongoing war. Evidence is hard to gather, and witnesses have their own motives.



Ukraine wants to bring more cases against Russian commanders. The trial is part of Ukraine's effort to show it can fairly investigate war crimes.



Vitalii Hodniuk, a soldier, was buried in his village. People paid respects. His family helped in the investigation.



War is hard. Soldiers often face tough choices and serious outcomes.