

CAR: UN EXPERTS LINK 'RUSSIAN TRAINERS'/WAGNER TO GRAVE ABUSES

UN independent experts, including the Working Group on mercenaries, reported in March 2021 mass executions without trial, arbitrary detention, torture during interrogations, enforced disappearances and attacks on humanitarian workers by private military personnel operating alongside CAR forces, naming Sewa Security Services, Lobaye Invest SARLU and the Wagner Group. In October 2021 they said Wagner-linked 'Russian instructors' were violently harassing and intimidating civilians, peacekeepers, journalists and aid workers, with reported rape and sexual violence by Wagner officers, and noted a CAR Special Commission of Inquiry had found violations including by 'Russian instructors'.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
BEYOND UKRAINE
AS OF 15 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF

OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTION

A government, a prosecutor, the EU, NATO or a UN body has formally named Russia, its services or its state-backed forces. This is a position of that authority, not a verdict.

WHO ESTABLISHED IT

UN Special Procedures (Working Group on mercenaries and others) joint statements of 31 March 2021 and 27 October 2021, after communications to the CAR Government.

LATEST

Russian personnel remain in CAR in 2026; the UN CAR arms embargo on the Government was lifted in 2024 (res. 2745). No accountability for these abuses reported.

SOURCES

A OHCHR: CAR – Experts alarmed by government's use of 'Russian trainers', close contacts with UN peacekeepers · 2021-03-31

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/03/car-experts-alarmed-governments-use-russian-trainers-close-contacts-un>

A OHCHR: CAR – Russian Wagner Group harassing and intimidating civilians – UN experts · 2021-10-27

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/11/car-russian-wagner-group-harassing-and-intimidating-civilians-un-experts>

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Support UN investigations in Mali, the Central African Republic and Libya.
- Restore independent UN monitoring where it was shut down.
- Sanction Africa Corps and its commanders as successors of the Wagner Group.

