

MOURA MASSACRE: 500+ KILLED BY MALIAN TROOPS AND FOREIGN PERSONNEL

During a five-day operation beginning 27 March 2022 in Moura (central Mali), OHCHR found strong indications that more than 500 people were killed, the vast majority summarily executed, and that at least 58 women and girls were raped or subjected to other sexual violence; it obtained names of at least 238 victims. Witnesses described 'armed white men' speaking an unknown language who operated alongside Malian forces, stayed for the whole operation and at times appeared to supervise; OHCHR did not name their nationality or unit. In January 2023 UN Special Procedures experts, including the Working Group on mercenaries, cited credible reports that Malian forces accompanied by personnel believed to belong to the Wagner Group executed several hundred people at Moura.

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

OHCHR fact-finding report on Moura, published 12 May 2023 (Malian authorities denied investigators access to the site); UN Special Procedures joint statement of 31 January 2023 calling for an independent investigation into possible international crimes by Government forces and 'Wagner group'.

LATEST

No independent or Malian judicial accountability process known as of 2026; Mali expelled MINUSMA (mandate ended 30 June 2023) and the UN Mali sanctions regime and Panel of Experts ended after Russia's veto on 30 August 2023.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The Wagner Group deployed in Mali from December 2021 was the same organisation fighting in Ukraine at the time (incl. Bakhmut/Soledar).

SOURCES

A OHCHR press release: Malian troops, foreign military personnel killed over 500 people during military operation in Moura · 2023-05-12

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/05/malian-troops-foreign-military-personnel-killed-over-500-people-during>

A OHCHR: Mali – UN experts call for independent investigation into possible international crimes committed by Government forces and 'Wagner group' · 2023-01-31

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/01/mali-un-experts-call-independent-investigation-possible-international-crimes>

A UN News: Moura – Over 500 killed by Malian troops, foreign military personnel · 2023-05-12

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136607>

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.

