

PUTIN ACKNOWLEDGES RUSSIAN STATE FULLY FUNDED WAGNER

On 27 June 2023, days after Wagner's mutiny, Vladimir Putin told Defence Ministry servicemen that the maintenance of the entire Wagner Group was fully provided for by the state, stating that from May 2022 to May 2023 it received over 86 billion rubles (about USD 1 billion). The statement contradicts Russia's earlier position that Wagner was a private entity unconnected to the state.

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

Public statement by the Russian head of state at a meeting with Defence Ministry servicemen, Kremlin transcript, 27 June 2023.

LATEST

After Prigozhin's death (23 August 2023), Wagner's Africa operations were brought under Defence Ministry control as 'Africa Corps', which the UK describes as having direct links to the Kremlin.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

State funding covered the period of Wagner's assault on Bakhmut and other Ukrainian cities.

SOURCES

B President of Russia (kremlin.ru): Meeting with Defence Ministry servicemen · 2023-06-27

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/71535>

C Lieber Institute (West Point): Putin admits to funding the Wagner Group · 2023-06-30

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/?p=21419>

C Semafor: Wagner Group was funded by Russia, Putin says · 2023-06-27

<https://semafor.com/article/06/27/2023/wagner-group-was-funded-by-russia-putin-says>

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.

